



Pharos University

Sustainability reporting on SDGs 2019 - 2020

I. Introduction

At the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, member states adopted a new global development agenda, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. There are 17 development goals for sustainable development set out by the UN. At its heart are 17 Sustainable Development Goal. These goals were launched as a global agenda for addressing the multiplicity of social and environmental challenges that face communities.

All Sustainable development goals (SDGs) are increasingly integrated at all levels in universities, including its overall strategy. Egypt has responded to the 17 SDGs by setting national plan: Egypt 2030 (<http://sdsegypt2030.com/?lang=en>). The third Pillar of this plan is on: Knowledge, Innovation and Scientific Research. which includes the following group of elements and components:

- General environment: Represents the role of the State in the creation of an environment that encourages innovation, including motivators and constraints, the economic system, policies, legislation, and principles of governance.
- Infrastructure: Play a fundamental role in supporting the cognitive and creative production by setting standards and laying regulatory foundations of innovation and scientific research, supporting business and innovation, protecting copyright, ensuring availability of information, financing and encouraging investment.
- Education and scientific research: Includes all research organizations and institutions, technical education and vocational training institutions, higher education and scientific research institutions, and research centers.
- Industry: Represents all industrial sectors including large, medium, and small scale companies' activities relevant to research and development.
- Intermediaries: Includes the institutions that link between industrial innovation, and research and development on the one hand, with academic and research institutions on the other hand.
- Development needs: Represents the required demand for innovation, knowledge, and scientific research to fulfill economic and social needs.

II. Relationship with international and nations policies

Pharos University has a direct involvement and input into the UN-SDGs, Egypt-2030 and the national strategy of the state ministry of Higher education and research (Table 1). Development of the strategic goals of Pharos University meet the UN-SDGs , and contribute to identify the national problems and challenges and enable adaptive management through its internal processes (rules and regulations), and external relationships (internationalization and partnerships (<http://www.pua.edu.eg/international/international-partners/>)).

Table 1 The compliance of Pharos university Goals with the UN-SDGs

Pharos University goal	Relation to UN-SDG
1. Raising the efficiency of the institutional capacity to improve competitiveness	GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
2. Enhancing and supporting the educational system	GOAL 4: Quality Education GOAL 5: Gender Equality
3. Expanding the support to internationalization	Goal 17 Partnership to achieve the goals
4. Developing the scientific research system and post graduate studies to meet the national strategy	GOAL 4: Quality Education GOAL 5: Gender Equality
5. Expanding the activities of community services and environmental development	GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
6. Raising the competitive skills of students	GOAL 4: Quality Education GOAL 5: Gender Equality

The strategic goals of Pharos University (<http://www.pua.edu.eg/about-pua/vision-and-mission/>) were reviewed and updated to meet the national strategies of sustainable development - Egypt 2030, Pillar 3: objectives for the knowledge, innovation, and scientific research to 2030 (<http://sdsegypt2030.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/4.-Knowledge-Innovation-Scientific-Research-Pillar2.pdf>).

Table 2 . below indicate the direct involvement of pharos university in with the Sustainable development Strategy: Egypt 2030 (per objective) and the corresponding goals of Pharos University .

Table 2. Involvement of Pharos University with Egypt 2030 strategy

Objective for Knowledge, Innovation, and Scientific Research to 2030 (National SDG Plan)	Definition as indicated in the Sustainable development Strategy: Egypt 2030	Corresponding Pharos University Goal
Creation of a stimulating environment for the localization and production of knowledge	Maximizing knowledge production by enhancing the legislative, investment, and financing environments and providing the fundamental infrastructure	Goal 2. Enhancing and supporting the educational system Goal 1. Raising the efficiency of the institutional capacity to improve competitiveness
Activation and development of an integrated national innovation system	Enhancing the efficiency of innovation production by encouraging creative production, increasing the links between innovation and developmental needs, the development of basic education and higher education as well as research and development	Goal 4. Developing the scientific research system and post graduate studies to meet the national strategy Goal 6. Raising the competitive skills of students.
Linking the knowledge applications and the innovation outputs with priorities	Determining the sectorial priorities and challenges, how to address them by working on increasing the knowledge product for the priority sectors and by raising the local content	Goal 4 Developing the scientific research system and post graduate studies to meet the national strategy. Goal 5. Expanding the activities of community services and environmental development

The Ministry higher education and research has formulated its strategy to cope with EGYPT 2030 Plan. It is available in Arabic in : http://portal.moheer.gov.eg/ar-eg/Documents/Strategy_moheer.pdf)

This strategy is basically summarized in improving 5 main aspects. These are (Translated by author)

- Education
- Scientific research and Innovation
- Capacity building
- Community Services
- Health

Under the aspect of Scientific research and Innovation the following items are included (Translated by author):

1. Accessibility: education accessibility for all
2. Quality: Improvement of quality education system to be consistent and coping with international quality systems
3. Competitiveness: Improvement of outcomes of universities in a competitive manner (ranking)
4. Internationalization: Formulation of MOUs with international universities with the purpose of launching branching of these universities in Egypt, And establishment of joint research and educational programs.
5. Community services: Improvement of community services in the field of health (university hospitals), Medical cohorts, cooperation with NGOs, and awareness activities to alleviate illiteracy and combat corruption

The goals of Pharos university are compliant with all the above items as one of the private universities that is recognized and accredited by the Ministry of higher education and research in Egypt. Table 3 shows the alignment of Pharos University Goals with the goals of the Higher ministry of Education .

Table 3 . Alignment of Pharos University Goals with the goals of the Ministry of Higher Education

Goals	Pharos University Goals	Goals of the Ministry of Higher Education
Goals 1.	Raising the efficiency of the institutional capacity to improve competitiveness.	Improvement of outcomes of universities in a competitive manner (ranking).
Goals 2.	Enhancing and supporting the educational system	Improvement of quality education system to be consistent and coping with international quality systems
Goal 3.	Expanding the support to internationalization	Internationalization: Formulation of MOUs with international universities with the purpose of launching branching of these universities in Egypt, And establishment of joint research and educational programs.
Goal 4.	Developing the scientific research system and post graduate studies to meet the national strategy	Improvement of outcomes of universities in a competitive manner (ranking)
Goal 5.	Expanding the activities of community services and environmental development	Improvement of community services in the field of health (university hospitals), Medical cohorts, cooperation with NGOs, and awareness activities to alleviate illiteracy and combat corruption

Goal 6.	Raising the competitive skills of students	education accessibility for all

Pharos University in Alexandria (PUA) is the only private university in Alexandria. Apart from the international research activities, PUA promotes youth development and foresees the empowerment of young generations to be entrepreneurs in a compressive manner. PUA also is concerned more with local issues and collaborate with local NGOs and Schools to contribute to achieving SDGs. There have been several activities regionally and globally that adds to the SDGs that is either lightly covered or not covered in the previous report of 2018-2019

The university recognizes and follows the articles in the national constitution that is relevant to SDGs 2014 https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Egypt_2014.pdf regarding achieving social justice and providing means of social independence (Article 8), ensuring equal opportunities for all citizens without discrimination (article 9), ensuring achievement of equality between men and women

In all aspects (article 11), including appropriate representation of women, guaranteeing women’s right of holding senior management offices in allsectors, and protect women against vioience and enabling her to strike the balance between family duties and work requiments (article 11). Pharos University also has established an employments’ insurance system that follows the social insurance system in a manner that guarantee a decent life (Article 17) .

From the point of view of Pharos university, the 17 SDGs can be categorized into 4 categories.

1. Social wellbeing category including SDGs 1,2,3,4,5,8, 10, 16
2. Environmental Category including SDGs 6,7,12,13,14,15
3. Community advancement Category including SDGs 9,11
4. Outreach Category including SDG17

This report summaries the activities carried out by Pharos university in 2019-2020 to achieve the UN- SDGs. The activities take different forms; conferences for discussions, dialogues and exchange experience on SDG topics, community services by staff members form different departments, students community Projects, identification of problems and research, and internal reports from departments.

Each SDG is dealt with separately report