BAKU ENGINEERING UNIVERSITY

BAKU ENGINEERING UNIVERSITY POLICY ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14: LIFE BELOW WATER

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Baku Engineering University (BEU) supports **Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water**, which aims to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources. While BEU is not a coastal or marine-focused university, it recognizes the importance of protecting water ecosystems and reducing pollution through education, research, and sustainable practices.

2. OBJECTIVES

- Promote awareness of marine conservation and aquatic ecosystem health.
- Reduce plastic and chemical pollution from campus activities.
- Encourage interdisciplinary research on water systems, pollution prevention, and marine technology.
- Collaborate with national and international partners in marine and water sustainability projects.

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Precautionary Approach:** Prevent harm to aquatic ecosystems through informed practices.
- **Sustainability:** Reduce pollution and support clean water initiatives.
- **Education and Research:** Promote marine and aquatic knowledge across disciplines.
- **Global Responsibility:** Contribute to global goals for ocean health and marine biodiversity.

4. ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONAL STRATEGIES

This policy supports:

- **Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities**, particularly "Clean Environment and Green Growth."
- **State Program on the Protection of Water Bodies of the Caspian Sea and Inland Waters (2021–2025)**
- **Law on Water Resources Management**, supporting responsible water use and pollution control.

5. ALIGNMENT WITH BAKU ENGINEERING UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC GOALS

This policy contributes to:

- **Goal 3:** "Environmental Sustainability and Campus Stewardship"
- **Goal 5:** "Advancing Interdisciplinary Environmental Research"
- **Goal 6:** "Fostering Regional and Global Environmental Partnerships"

6. KEY STRATEGIES

6.1 Waste and Pollution Management

- Eliminate the use of single-use plastics on campus.
- Ensure safe disposal of laboratory chemicals and wastewater.
- Participate in plastic-free and clean-water campaigns.

6.2 Education and Outreach

- Include marine and aquatic environmental modules in environmental science and engineering programs.
- Promote student engagement in coastal and inland water protection projects.
- Organize awareness campaigns on marine conservation and sustainable consumption.

6.3 Research and Innovation

- Support research on water pollution control, marine robotics, and sustainable aquaculture.
- Collaborate with environmental agencies and research institutions on marine biodiversity and Caspian Sea health.
- Encourage student-led innovation projects related to marine technology and clean water.

6.4 Partnerships and Community Involvement

- Engage in local and international initiatives such as World Oceans Day and Caspian Sea clean-up programs.
- Work with schools and NGOs to promote water sustainability awareness.
- Establish knowledge-sharing forums on marine-related innovation.

7. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

The **Department of Environmental Sustainability and Research**, in collaboration with engineering and natural sciences faculties, will oversee implementation. Key indicators:

- Reduction in plastic usage and chemical waste
- Participation in marine-focused programs and collaborations
- Student and faculty involvement in research and outreach
- Publications and events related to aquatic ecosystems

8. REVIEW AND REVISIONS

The policy will be reviewed every two years and revised based on updated environmental data, research developments, and national strategies concerning marine and water ecosystems.