

## SDG 16

### QS Sustainability Report

#### Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

#### Submission-ready institutional report for Azerbaijan Technological University

<b>Institution</b>	Azerbaijan Technological University
<b>Goal</b>	SDG 16
<b>Reporting period</b>	January-December 2025
<b>Prepared for</b>	QS Sustainability submission

Institutional focus: accountable governance, transparent procedures, rights-based education, digital integrity, and stakeholder participation.

*“ATU’s SDG 16 contribution in 2025 was shaped by transparent academic governance, structured public oversight, digital accountability, and rights-based student engagement.”*

## Executive Summary

This report presents Azerbaijan Technological University's evidence-based contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 16 in 2025. The report is structured in line with QS Sustainability expectations and demonstrates how the university embedded transparency, accountability, civic education, stakeholder participation and digital governance into its academic and administrative ecosystem.

Across the reporting cycle, ATU implemented and documented a set of mutually reinforcing practices: external public oversight of examinations, open-door assessment monitoring, appeals and complaint systems, digital feedback mechanisms, scientific council governance, human rights and tolerance education, justice-sector engagement, cybersecurity infrastructure and anti-violence awareness. Taken together, these activities show that SDG 16 at ATU is not treated as an isolated communications theme, but as an operational principle shaping institutional culture and decision-making.

The strongest evidence areas are threefold. First, governance and transparency were advanced through oversight councils, appeals systems, open-door exam observation and digitally accessible feedback channels. Second, rights-based education was strengthened through human rights, tolerance, anti-violence and justice-awareness programmes. Third, institutional resilience was enhanced through cybersecurity and electronic academic management systems, which support secure and accountable academic processes.

## Methodology and QS Alignment

The report draws on university news releases and verified institutional announcements from January to December 2025 that demonstrate direct or strongly defensible alignment with SDG 16. Activities were selected on the basis of their relevance to effective, accountable and inclusive institutions; public participation; access to justice and legal awareness; transparent governance; and secure, rights-respecting institutional systems.

For reporting purposes, the evidence has been organized into four analytic categories: governance and transparency, human rights and justice awareness, digital security and institutional resilience, and social cohesion and civic values. This structure allows the university's contribution to be interpreted not merely as a collection of events, but as an integrated governance model with measurable and repeatable institutional features.

## KPI Dashboard

To support a QS-style impact presentation, the dashboard below synthesizes the most visible SDG 16 outputs recorded in the 2025 evidence base.

### ATU SDG 16 KPI Dashboard



Figure 1. Summary KPI dashboard derived from the 2025 SDG 16 evidence set.

Indicator	Value	Interpretation
Evidence-linked initiatives	22	Demonstrates breadth of SDG 16 activity across governance, rights, digital systems and civic engagement.
Reporting periods covered	4	Shows continuity across the full annual reporting cycle rather than one-off interventions.
Public oversight mechanism	1	Public Oversight/Control Council operated as an external accountability body.
Open-door exam cycles	2	Both winter and summer sessions were opened to direct stakeholder observation.

Digital complaint channels 2

Physical and QR-based channels improved institutional responsiveness.

Core governance bodies 3

Public council, scientific council and appeals structures together formed a layered governance model.

### Evidence Distribution and Performance Pattern

The evidence set is not concentrated in a single month or a single type of activity. Rather, it shows a stable pattern: stronger peaks during the examination periods, complemented by sustained work in legal awareness, human rights education and digital governance transformation.

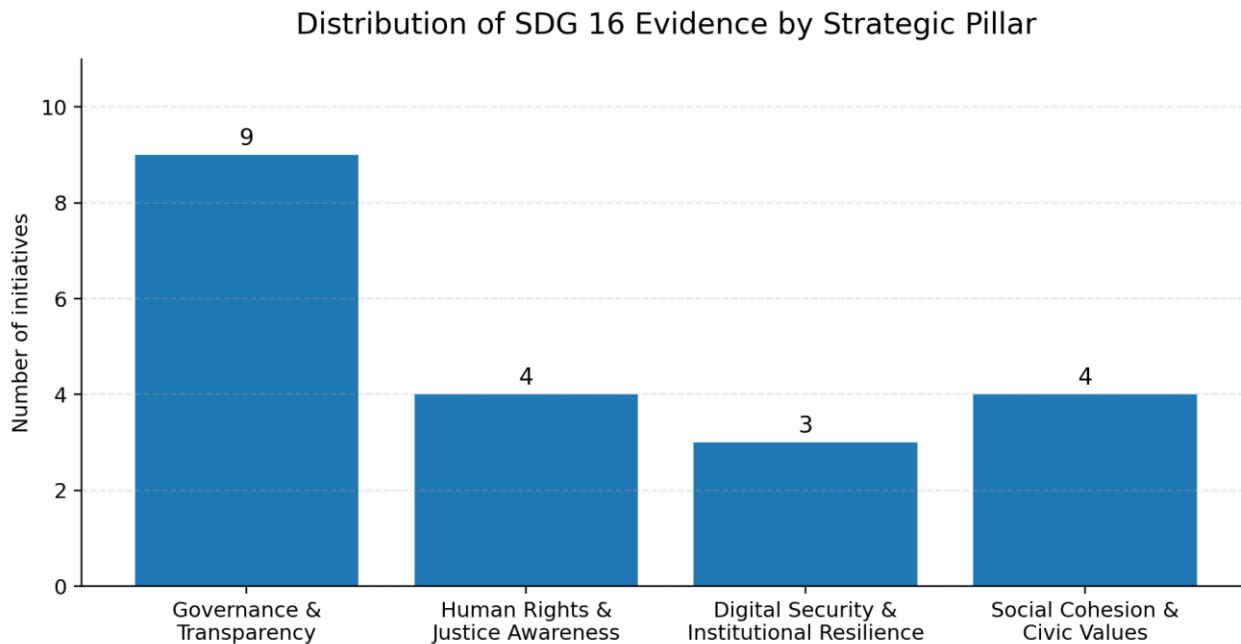


Figure 2. Distribution of SDG 16 evidence by strategic pillar.

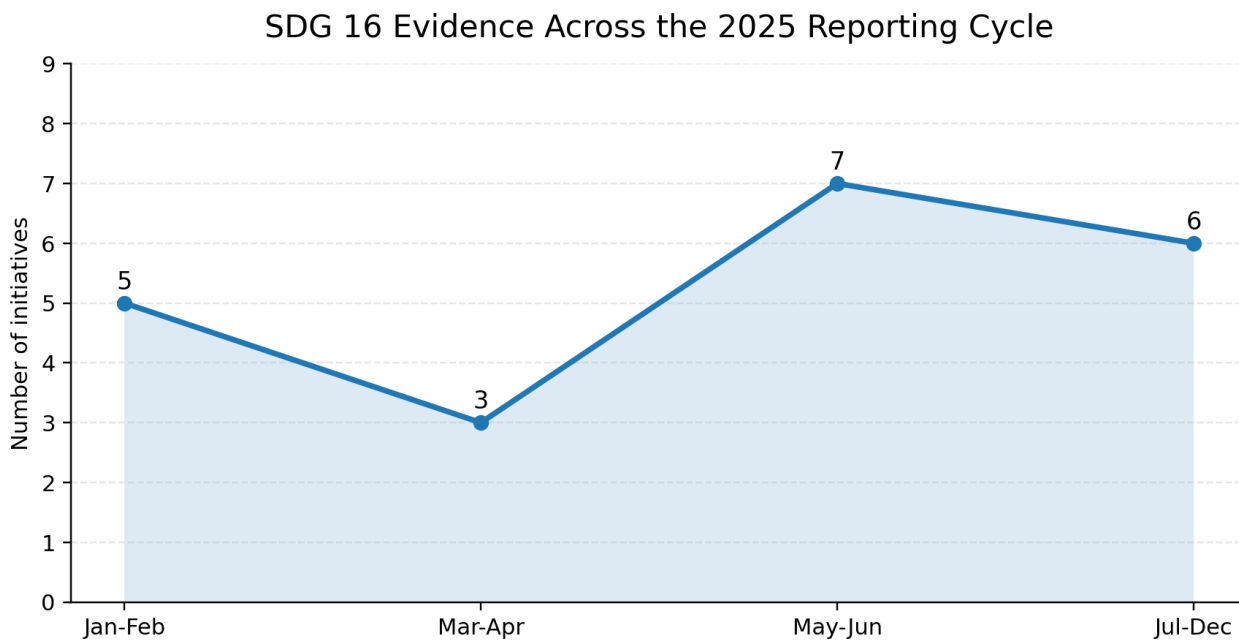


Figure 3. Distribution of SDG 16 evidence across the 2025 reporting cycle.

### 1. Governance, Transparency and Accountability

ATU’s strongest SDG 16 contribution in 2025 lies in the area of transparent institutional governance. The university repeatedly demonstrated that academic administration, especially in relation to examinations, is organized around openness, procedural clarity and a documented right to appeal. This was visible in both the winter and spring-summer examination cycles, where oversight, monitoring and stakeholder engagement were built into the process rather than added as symbolic elements.

#### Public Oversight Council and Participatory Governance

The meeting of the Public Oversight Council on 16 January 2025 stands out as one of the year’s most persuasive SDG 16 indicators. The council reviewed the winter examination session, observed the functioning of both the Examination Commission and the Appeal Commission, and put forward recommendations to the university administration. In practical terms, this shows that ATU accepted scrutiny from outside the immediate administrative hierarchy and treated public opinion as a meaningful component of university governance.

The importance of this mechanism was further reinforced on 1 July 2025, when the Public Control Council again monitored the spring examination process, received information on the examination and appeals structures, and contributed independent proposals. This continuity

matters for QS reporting because it demonstrates an institutionalized oversight mechanism rather than a single event-driven practice.

Evidence: [16 Jan 2025](#) | [1 Jul 2025](#)

### **Open Door Assessment and Public Trust**

ATU complemented external oversight with direct stakeholder engagement through two documented Open Door Days during the winter and summer exam sessions. Parents and stakeholders were invited to observe the process in real time, receive explanations of exam procedures, understand how results were checked and how appeals were handled, and see the use of surveillance systems, coding rooms and complaint channels.

This approach has high relevance to SDG 16 because it operationalizes transparency. It reduces informational asymmetry between administration and families, increases trust in assessment integrity and strengthens the legitimacy of institutional decision-making. In QS terms, these practices support a narrative of accountable and student-centred governance.

Evidence: [28 Jan 2025](#) | [3 Jul 2025](#)

### **Appeals, Leadership Oversight and Fair Process**

Preparation meetings on 23 May 2025 and the rector's direct observation of the examination process on 2 June 2025 further show that ATU treats fairness in assessment as a matter of institutional governance. The Examination Headquarters and Appeals Commission were explicitly affirmed, while technical arrangements such as surveillance, secure rooms and complaint mechanisms were framed as safeguards for objectivity and student rights.

The significance of these measures lies in their procedural nature. SDG 16 is often interpreted too narrowly as external legal justice. In a university setting, however, fair process, documented appeals and rights-protective academic administration are among the clearest expressions of strong institutions.

Evidence: [23 May 2025](#) | [2 Jun 2025](#)

## **2. Human Rights, Justice Awareness and Inclusive Civic Education**

A second major area of contribution concerns ATU's investment in rights-based awareness and justice literacy. During 2025, the university convened activities that addressed human rights, tolerance, legal thinking, constitutional values and anti-violence education. Collectively, these

initiatives positioned the university not only as an educational provider, but also as a civic platform supporting inclusive and informed citizenship.

### **Human Rights and Religious Tolerance**

On 20 May 2025, within Human Rights Month, ATU organized a multi-stakeholder institutional event on Religious Tolerance and Human Rights in cooperation with the State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations and the Ganja Regional Center of the Ombudsman. The event highlighted equality, human dignity, multiculturalism and coexistence, while also giving students access to institutional actors involved in public rights protection.

This initiative is especially useful for QS Sustainability because it links academic life to public values. It demonstrates that human rights awareness is not confined to abstract discourse; it is connected to dialogue with state institutions, student questioning and exposure to contemporary rights frameworks.

Evidence: [20 May 2025](#)

### **Justice Volunteers and Legal System Awareness**

The registration call for the Justice Volunteers movement on 6 April 2025 offers another strong SDG 16 signal. Through this initiative, students were introduced to justice-related programme areas such as probation, notary and registration, work with citizens and psychology. The value of the initiative lies in its practical dimension: students were not only informed about justice institutions but invited to interact with them through structured participation.

This is a particularly persuasive indicator because it connects student development with the architecture of public institutions. It therefore supports a QS narrative built around civic participation, legal awareness and the social role of higher education.

Evidence: [6 Apr 2025](#)

### **Constitutional Values, Law Literacy and Rights-Based Prevention**

The year also included targeted education on constitutional values and social justice risks. The National Salvation Day event on 13 June 2025 emphasized constitutional development, civic responsibility and the legal foundations of statehood. Earlier, on 1 April 2025, a seminar on Law and Economics contributed to institutional and normative literacy among students. Later, on 17 September 2025, a seminar addressing domestic violence and human trafficking expanded the university's SDG 16 profile toward preventative, rights-based education.

Taken together, these activities show that ATU uses academic and public events to cultivate respect for legal systems, informed citizenship and awareness of social harms that undermine safe and inclusive communities.

Evidence: [1 Apr 2025](#) | [13 Jun 2025](#) | [17 Sep 2025](#)

### **3. Digital Governance, Safety and Institutional Resilience**

A third pillar of ATU's SDG 16 contribution is its emphasis on secure, accountable and digitally enabled institutional systems. In 2025, the university documented both cybersecurity capacity building and the digitalization of academic management, showing that strong institutions increasingly depend on secure information environments and transparent digital workflows.

#### **Cybersecurity as an Institutional Capacity**

The opening of the Cybersecurity Center on 15 April 2025 significantly advanced ATU's SDG 16 profile in the area of institutional resilience. The centre expanded training and applied learning in cybersecurity and contributed to the development of secure digital infrastructure and data-protection awareness. In higher education, such capacity is central to building trustworthy institutions, since digital insecurity can undermine both operational continuity and stakeholder confidence.

Evidence: [15 Apr 2025](#)

#### **QR Feedback and Koderá Digital Governance**

On 3 June 2025, ATU introduced a QR-based digital channel for student suggestions, comments and requests related to the exam session. This initiative improved the accessibility and speed of institutional communication while strengthening the accountability of management to student concerns.

Later, in September 2025, the university implemented and presented the Koderá electronic management system. The platform integrated electronic gradebooks, exam modules, academic monitoring, internal communication and digital library access. Its significance for SDG 16 lies in the reduction of administrative opacity and the creation of more traceable, consistent and data-driven academic processes.

Evidence: [3 Jun 2025](#) | [13 Sep 2025](#) | [30 Sep 2025](#)

#### 4. Collegial Governance and Institutional Quality Systems

While open oversight and public engagement are highly visible, SDG 16 at ATU is also supported by internal collegial governance. The Scientific Council meetings held on 21 February, 3 July and 12 September 2025 show how institutional decision-making is structured through formal discussion, approval and accountability mechanisms.

Across these meetings, the university addressed academic plans, methodological resources, examination formats, quality assurance, accreditation preparation, staffing arrangements and other strategic matters. For QS Sustainability purposes, this matters because it demonstrates that institutional development is processed through documented governance forums rather than ad hoc decisions.

Evidence: [21 Feb 2025](#) | [3 Jul 2025](#) | [12 Sep 2025](#)

#### 5. Social Cohesion, Safety and Civic Values

ATU's SDG 16 profile is rounded out by initiatives that support safe communities, responsible citizenship and social cohesion. The anti-drug awareness event on 24 January 2025 connected students with legal, police and narcology institutions and highlighted crime prevention and harmful social behaviours as issues of public concern. The seminar on safe internet use on 16 February 2025 promoted responsible digital conduct and personal data protection.

The seminar Healthy Family, Healthy Society on 15 May 2025 addressed family relationships, youth well-being and the long-term foundations of social stability. Finally, the meeting on patriotism and civic identity on 4 November 2025 reinforced collective memory, civic responsibility and social solidarity through interaction with veterans and public representatives. Although these initiatives vary in format, they all contribute to the formation of a responsible, aware and socially connected student body.

Evidence: [24 Jan 2025](#) | [16 Feb 2025](#) | [15 May 2025](#) | [4 Nov 2025](#)

#### Integrated Impact Matrix

The matrix below summarizes how the evidence base maps onto key SDG 16 dimensions used in institutional sustainability reporting.

Dimension	Representative initiatives	Institutional value	QS relevance
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Transparency	Open Door Days; rector exam oversight	Visibility of procedures and assessment fairness	Strong
Accountability	Appeals commissions; QR feedback; councils	Operational response to concerns and documented review	Strong
Participation	Public Council; Volunteers	Oversight Justice Stakeholder voice and civic involvement	Strong
Rights awareness	Human rights; law and economics; anti-violence seminar	Legal literacy and inclusive values	Strong
Digital resilience	Cybersecurity Center; Koder platform	Secure, traceable and efficient governance	Moderate to strong
Social cohesion	Healthy seminar; event; meeting	Family anti-drug civic identity Preventive education and collective responsibility	Moderate

## Conclusion

The evidence presented in this report shows that Azerbaijan Technological University made a credible and multi-dimensional contribution to SDG 16 in 2025. The most compelling strength is the university’s layered governance model, where open-door examination procedures, appeals systems, rector-level monitoring, public oversight councils and scientific councils work together rather than in isolation. This demonstrates that ATU understands strong institutions as a matter of everyday administrative practice.

The second major strength is the university’s use of educational programming to extend institutional values into student development. Through human rights and tolerance events, law literacy, justice-sector engagement, anti-violence awareness and constitutional education, ATU positioned the campus as a civic learning space. This is especially important for QS Sustainability because it shows that social impact is linked to formal institutional action rather than only to extracurricular activity.

The third strength lies in digital integrity. The Cybersecurity Center, QR-based feedback channel and Kodera management system indicate that ATU is integrating transparency and resilience into the digital layer of institutional life. In combination, these initiatives support the conclusion that ATU contributed to the development of effective, accountable and inclusive institutional practices in a way that is both evidence-based and aligned with the expectations of SDG 16 reporting.

## Annex A. Evidence Register

The following register consolidates the main evidence items used in this report. It is designed to support direct verification, internal archiving and external review.

No	Date	Initiative	SDG 16 contribution	Link
1	2025-01-16	Meeting of the Public Oversight Council	Governance and external oversight. Reviewed winter examination session; observed Examination and Appeal Commissions; issued recommendations to leadership.	<a href="#">Open</a>
2	2025-01-24	Students educated on the fight against drug addiction	Community safety and prevention. Brought together legal, police and narcology representatives to promote social stability, crime prevention and safe communities.	<a href="#">Open</a>
3	2025-01-28	Open Doors Day during the winter exam session	Transparency and public trust. Enabled parents to observe exam procedures and appeals mechanisms in real time, reinforcing accountability and confidence in assessment.	<a href="#">Open</a>
4	2025-02-16	Information security and safe internet use for youth	Digital safety and responsible citizenship. Raised awareness of data protection, safe internet use and secure digital behaviour among young people.	<a href="#">Open</a>
5	2025-02-21	Scientific Council of the Faculty of Food Engineering	Institutional governance. Illustrated structured academic governance and formal internal decision-making at faculty level.	<a href="#">Open</a>

No	Date	Initiative	SDG 16 contribution	Link
6	2025-04-01	Seminar on Law and Economics	Legal awareness and governance literacy. Strengthened understanding of normative, institutional and policy-oriented decision-making among students.	<a href="#">Open</a>
7	2025-04-06	Justice Volunteers movement registration	Justice engagement and civic participation. Connected students with justice-sector programmes and expanded practical awareness of legal institutions and citizen-state interaction.	<a href="#">Open</a>
8	2025-04-15	Opening of the Cybersecurity Center	Institutional resilience and digital security. Expanded cybersecurity capacity, secure digital infrastructure and information protection.	<a href="#">Open</a>
9	2025-05-15	Healthy Family, Society seminar	Social cohesion and prevention. Promoted ethical awareness, healthy social relations and preventive education supporting stable communities.	<a href="#">Open</a>
10	2025-05-20	Human Rights and Religious Tolerance event	Human rights and inclusivity. Delivered human rights education with state institutions and the ombudsman structure, supporting equality and coexistence.	<a href="#">Open</a>

No	Date	Initiative	SDG 16 contribution	Link
11	2025-05-23	Preparations for the spring exam session	Transparent academic governance. Confirmed examination headquarters, appeals systems and monitoring arrangements before the exam cycle began.	<a href="#">Open</a>
12	2025-06-02	Rector observed the exam process	Fair assessment and student rights. Direct leadership oversight reinforced transparent, objective and student-centred examination practices.	<a href="#">Open</a>
13	2025-06-03	Digital student feedback mechanism via QR	Digital accountability. Created an accessible electronic channel for suggestions, complaints and requests linked to the exam session.	<a href="#">Open</a>
14	2025-06-13	National Salvation Day and constitutional awareness event	Civic responsibility and constitutional values. Strengthened legal awareness, civic responsibility and institutional trust through constitutional and sovereignty-focused education.	<a href="#">Open</a>
15	2025-07-01	Public Control Council meeting	Participatory governance. External stakeholders monitored the spring examination session and reviewed appeals and examination governance.	<a href="#">Open</a>
16	2025-07-03	Scientific Council final meeting of 2024/2025	Strategic governance and quality assurance. Addressed academic planning, accreditation preparation, audit, staffing and institutional quality governance.	<a href="#">Open</a>

No	Date	Initiative	SDG 16 contribution	Link
17	2025-07-03	Open Door Day during the summer exam session	Stakeholder engagement and trust. Allowed parents to monitor assessment practices and understand evaluation procedures and appeals in real time.	<a href="#">Open</a>
18	2025-09-12	Scientific Council first meeting of 2025/2026	Collegial institutional decision-making. Approved academic rules, methodological resources, examination formats and institutional reforms through a collegial governance process.	<a href="#">Open</a>
19	2025-09-13	Kodera electronic management system	Digital governance transformation. Introduced integrated digital systems for gradebooks, exams, communication and academic monitoring.	<a href="#">Open</a>
20	2025-09-30	Presentation of updated Kodera platform	Transparent management systems. Expanded the platform rollout through training and institutional adoption of a more transparent and data-driven model.	<a href="#">Open</a>
21	2025-09-17	Seminar against domestic violence and human trafficking	Rights-based awareness. Educated students about violence prevention, anti-trafficking and legal and social responsibility.	<a href="#">Open</a>
22	2025-11-04	Patriotism and civic identity meeting	Civic values and social cohesion. Promoted civic responsibility, historical memory and collective solidarity through engagement with veterans and families of martyrs.	<a href="#">Open</a>

## Annex B. Summary of Strategic KPIs

This summary table groups the annual evidence into a concise set of review-ready indicators.

KPI theme	Value	Commentary
Governance mechanisms	6	Public council, scientific councils, appeals systems, open-door observation, QR feedback and rector monitoring.
Rights-based initiatives	5	Human rights, tolerance, law literacy, justice awareness and anti-violence programmes.
Digital integrity actions	4	Cybersecurity, QR system and Koderia implementation/presentation stages.
Community safety and cohesion actions	4	Anti-drug, safe internet, family values and civic identity programming.
Quarterly continuity	4/4	Relevant SDG 16 evidence was documented in every period of the year.