

KUMASI TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY



POLICY

ON

**GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

IN LINE WITH SDG 17

AUGUST 2025

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FOREWORD BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

It is with great pride that I introduce Kumasi Technical University's landmark policy on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17: Partnerships for Sustainable Development. As a leading technical university in Ghana, our mandate extends beyond the lecture halls and laboratories; we are called upon to be a primary engine of innovation, economic growth, and social progress for Ghana and beyond.

The global challenges we face, from climate change to economic inequality, are complex and interconnected. No single institution can solve them alone. SDG 17 provides the essential framework for collaboration, reminding us that our strength is magnified when we work together. This policy institutionalizes our commitment to building robust, equitable, and impactful partnerships with government, industry, civil society, and international collaborators.

The policy is not merely a statement of intent; it is a strategic blueprint that will guide our actions. In particular, it will empower our staff and students to co-create solutions, mobilize resources, and leverage technology to address the most pressing needs of our society. It solidifies our vision of KsTU as a university without walls, deeply embedded in our community and globally connected.

I call upon every member of our university community—faculty, staff, and students—to embrace the spirit of this policy and to actively seek out opportunities for collaboration. Together, through partnership, we will build a more sustainable and prosperous future for all.

Prof. Gabreal Dwomoh

Vice-Chancellor, Kumasi Technical University

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Kumasi Technical University (KsTU) Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17) Policy offers a comprehensive institutional framework for advancing global partnerships in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063. Recognizing the pivotal role of universities in catalyzing sustainable development, the policy seeks to integrate SDG 17 principles into KsTU's governance, teaching, research, innovation, and outreach activities.

Anchored in the University's mission and strategic plan, the policy institutionalizes multi-stakeholder collaboration as a driver of academic excellence, inclusive growth, and societal transformation. It focuses on five thematic pillars: Capacity Development, Financial Inclusion, Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships, Technology and Innovation, and Industry Engagement. A dedicated SDG 17 Committee, chaired by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and reporting to the Vice-Chancellor, will oversee implementation and strategic alignment.

The policy outlines clear directives for resource mobilization, curriculum integration, technology transfer, and the expansion of international and industry linkages. It incorporates a robust Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework, with key performance indicators to ensure accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement. Ultimately, this policy positions KsTU as a proactive enabler of sustainable development through partnerships that translate academic knowledge into impactful local and global solutions.

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|----------------|--|
| AU: | African Union |
| CBO: | Community-Based Organisation |
| ECOWAS: | Economic Community of West African States |
| KsTU: | Kumasi Technical University |
| MEL: | Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning |
| MMDAs: | Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies |
| MoU: | Memorandum of Understanding |
| NGO: | Non-Governmental Organisation |
| SDG 17 Policy: | Sustainable Development Goal 17 Policy |
| R&D: | Research and Development |
| SDGs: | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SME: | Small and Medium-sized Enterprise |

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Partnership: A collaborative relationship between the University and one or more external parties to work towards shared objectives.

Multi-Stakeholder Partnership: A partnership that involves organisations from different sectors of society, such as government, the private sector, and civil society.

Sustainable Development: Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

1.0 PREAMBLE

This policy outlines the commitment of Kumasi Technical University to advancing Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17): “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.” As a technical university, our core mission is to produce skilled human resources, conduct relevant research, and foster innovation that addresses local and global challenges. We recognise that achieving the SDGs requires a collaborative approach and that partnerships are the cornerstone of a practical implementation. This policy framework provides the guidelines and principles of how the University will engage in partnerships with various stakeholders to promote sustainable development.

2.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Mutual Respect and Trust:** All partnerships will be founded on principles of mutual respect, trust, and shared values.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** The University will ensure that all partnership agreements and activities are transparent and accountable to all stakeholders.
- **Shared Responsibility:** All partners will have a clear understanding of their roles, responsibilities, and contributions.
- **Inclusivity:** The University will actively seek to form partnerships that are inclusive and representative of diverse perspectives and expertise.
- **Sustainability:** Partnerships will be designed to be sustainable, both in their objectives and their impact.

3.0 BACKGROUND TO THE POLICY

In September 2015, all 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a transformative global framework aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring prosperity for all by 2030. Central to this agenda are the 17 interconnected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which together form an ambitious call to action for governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector.

SDG 17, “Partnerships for the Goals,” serves as the foundation of the entire SDG framework. It recognises that achieving sustainable development requires inclusive, cross-sectoral, and multi-level partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technologies, and financial resources. SDG 17 highlights the significance of international cooperation and

coordinated efforts to enhance the means of implementation and promote systemic progress across all goals.

Kumasi Technical University (KsTU), as a progressive institution of higher learning, recognises its vital role in advancing the objectives of Agenda 2030 and the African Union's Agenda 2063. Universities are not only centres of knowledge but also drivers of innovation, societal transformation, and sustainable development. KsTU reaffirms its commitment to aligning its institutional priorities with the global sustainable development agenda, primarily through the strategic realisation of SDG 17.

This policy is therefore designed to serve as an institutional framework for integrating the principles and targets of SDG 17 into the University's core mandates of governance, teaching and learning, research, innovation, community engagement, and international collaboration. It aims to support capacity development, promote financial inclusion, improve access to and transfer of suitable technologies, and strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships with local, national, regional, and global actors.

By adopting this policy, KsTU aims to position itself as a proactive facilitator of global partnerships that effectively promote sustainable development outcomes in Ghana and beyond. The policy also seeks to formalise best practices from top-ranked universities worldwide while addressing the specific development challenges and opportunities within the Ghanaian and African contexts.

3.1 KsTU Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17) Policy

This policy shall be referred to as the Kumasi Technical University Sustainable Development Goal 17 Policy (SDG 17 Policy). To facilitate its effective implementation, an SDG 17 Committee shall be established as a sub-committee under the University's Welfare Services Board. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor shall chair the Committee and shall bear the official title "SDG 17 Committee."

The SDG 17 Committee shall be responsible for coordinating, overseeing, and ensuring the effective execution of initiatives aligned with the objectives of SDG 17. The Committee shall report directly to the Chairperson of the Welfare Services Board, who is the Vice-Chancellor of the University.

3.2 Rationale of the Policy

Kumasi Technical University is uniquely positioned to promote sustainable development. Our expertise in science, technology, engineering, applied arts, and entrepreneurship is essential for addressing practical societal challenges. This policy acknowledges that our institutional mission is best achieved through forging strategic partnerships that convert our academic and research capabilities into measurable impact.

3.3 Alignment with National and Institutional Priorities

The SDG 17 policy is strategically aligned with Ghana's National Development Agenda, reinforcing the country's commitment to achieving the SDGs. It also supports national priorities related to industrialisation, employment generation, and inclusive socio-economic development.

3.3.1 Alignment with KsTU's Mission, Vision, and Strategic Plan

This policy is grounded in and advances the Mission, Vision, and Strategic Plan of KsTU. It operationalises the University's strategic commitment to deepening community engagement, strengthening industry partnerships, and enhancing international visibility. In doing so, it reinforces KsTU's role in fostering national development and contributing meaningfully to the achievement of the SDGs.

3.4 Policy Statement: Our Commitment to Partnership

Kumasi Technical University affirms its commitment to strategic partnerships as a foundational pillar of its institutional ethos. In alignment with its academic mission and global best practices, the University shall actively identify, cultivate, and sustain collaborative, multi-stakeholder engagements at the local, national, and international levels. These partnerships shall be guided by principles of mutual benefit, inclusivity, and shared purpose, with the overarching aim of advancing knowledge, fostering innovation, and contributing meaningfully to the realisation of the United Nations SDGs.

4.0 POLICY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1. Overall Aim

To institutionalise strategic partnerships as a core pillar in advancing academic excellence, fostering cutting-edge research and innovation, and promoting sustainable development outcomes at KsTU in alignment with global best practices.

4.2. Specific Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to:

1. Institutionalise global and local partnerships that advance sustainable development through teaching, research, innovation, and outreach.
2. Promote capacity development in academic, administrative, and technical domains for sustainable impact.
3. Facilitate financial inclusion initiatives through research, innovation, and partnerships.
4. Support the development and deployment of relevant technologies for sustainable industrial growth.
5. Foster effective multi-stakeholder collaboration at institutional, national, and international levels.
6. To create sustainable partnerships with industry and public sector actors for inclusive growth and innovation.

5.0 SCOPE AND APPLICATION

This policy and its provisions shall apply to all members of the KsTU community, including academic and non-academic staff, students, as well as all constituent faculties, schools, departments, research centres, and administrative units. It will guide the initiation, development, formalisation, management, and evaluation of all institutional partnerships undertaken on behalf of the University. Specifically, the policy covers the following thematic areas: Capacity Development, Financial Inclusion and Resource Mobilisation, Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships, Technology and Innovation, Industry and Private Sector Engagement.

6.0 CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Objective: To enhance the University's capacity and that of its partners to effectively contribute to sustainable development through knowledge sharing, skills transfer, and institutional strengthening.

6.1. Policy Directives

1. The University shall design and implement continuous professional development (CPD) programmes for both academic and administrative staff. These programmes shall be developed in partnership with University Management and shall focus on enhancing competencies in grant writing, interdisciplinary research, innovation, academic programme development, and project management..
2. Faculties and departments shall be encouraged to integrate SDG principles and partnership-based projects into curricula to provide students with practical, collaborative experience.
3. The University, through its relevant centres, shall offer technical assistance, workshops, and short courses to build the capacity of local community partners, SMEs, and public sector actors.
4. The Office for International Affairs and Linkages shall actively facilitate knowledge exchange programmes, including staff and student mobility with partner institutions globally, to enhance skills transfer and expose stakeholders to international best practices.

7.0 FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION

Objective: To establish a transparent and efficient financial administration framework that guarantees equitable resource access and mobilises innovative, diversified, and sustainable financing mechanisms to strengthen inclusive, partnership-driven programmes and projects.

7.1. Policy Directives

1. The University shall actively pursue diversified funding streams, including competitive grants from international bodies, national agencies, corporate partners, and philanthropic organisations to reduce reliance on traditional revenue sources. It will therefore develop a funding plan that encourages public, private, and philanthropic contributions for sustainability initiatives.

2. A “Partnership Seed Fund” shall be established under the leadership of the SDG 17 Committee, a subcommittee of the university Welfare Services Board, mandated to implement the SDG 17 policy to provide initial funding for promising new partnership initiatives.
3. The University Finance Office shall ensure effective and efficient financial management, transparent reporting, and stringent auditing for all funds acquired through partnerships, in line with national laws and partner requirements to build trust with partners and funders.
4. The University shall explore and, where feasible, pilot innovative financing models such as blended finance and social impact bonds for large-scale, development-focused projects.
5. The University shall offer scholarships/grants to support under-represented groups in SDG-focused research and innovation.

8.0 MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS

Objective: To cultivate and strengthen strategic partnerships with government, civil society, academic institutions, and international organisations to address complex sustainable development challenges, co-create value for both the University and society, and promote shared responsibility and accountability.

8.1. Policy Directives

1. The SDG 17 Committee shall develop and maintain a comprehensive database of university partners, categorised by sector: Public (e.g., Ministries, MMDAs), Private (Industry, SMEs), Civil Society (NGOs, CBOs), Academia (Local and international universities), and International Partners (e.g., UN agencies, AU, ECOWAS).
2. All University partnerships shall be founded upon the principles of mutual respect, equity, transparency, accountability, value co-creation, and a commitment to long-term sustainability.
3. Organise partnerships into clearly defined thematic clusters (e.g., renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, waste management) to promote targeted collaboration, resource optimisation, and measurable impact.

4. All significant partnerships shall be formalised through Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) or other agreements that clearly define objectives, roles, responsibilities, resource commitments, and intellectual property arrangements.
5. The University shall engage in collaborative governance by establishing partnership councils or advisory boards comprising diverse stakeholders to guide joint projects.

9.0 TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Objective: To leverage technology and innovation to foster partnerships, share knowledge, and develop sustainable solutions for local and global challenges.

The Technology and Innovation pillar of this policy involves promoting the use of emerging technologies, digital infrastructure, and research-informed innovations to accelerate progress toward sustainable outcomes and knowledge dissemination. It seeks to position KsTU as a hub for technological innovation, knowledge sharing, and the transfer of solutions that address critical development challenges.

9.1. Policy Directives

1. The University shall establish clear, efficient pathways for the transfer and commercialisation of university-developed technologies, supported by the Centre for Technology and Innovation. It shall therefore facilitate the exchange and adaptation of environmentally sound and socially inclusive technologies from global partners to local contexts.
2. The University, through the Directorate of ICT Services, shall ensure the provision of robust digital infrastructure to support virtual collaboration, data sharing, and e-learning with national and international partners.
3. The University shall actively promote and incentivise joint Research and Development (R&D) projects with industry and other partners to foster innovation.
4. KsTU shall promote Open Science and Open Data principles, encouraging faculty and researchers to make their research outputs and data visible and accessible to accelerate collaboration and innovation.

10.0 INDUSTRY AND PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Objective: To establish a strong and mutually beneficial relationship with the industrial sector to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and practical application.

10.1. Policy Directives

1. The SDG 17 Committee shall collaborate with the Industrial Liaison Office for all industry partnerships. It shall develop internship, apprenticeship, and industrial attachment programmes linking students with industry in SDG-relevant sectors.
2. The Departments, through the Industry Advisory Boards, shall regularly consult relevant industry sectors to guide curriculum development and reviews.
3. The University shall expand and deepen Work-Integrated Learning programmes, including structured internships, apprenticeships, and industry-hosted capstone projects for students.
4. The University shall actively market the expertise of its academic staff for research and consultancy services to provide innovative solutions to industry challenges.
5. The University shall encourage joint research and development by establishing R&D partnerships with industry for sustainable products, processes, and services. 5. The University shall further incentivize collaborative grant applications that address both local and global challenges.
6. The University shall promote sector dialogues by organising seminars and workshops with industry to identify opportunities and barriers in SDG implementation.

11.0 GOVERNANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

11.1. The University SDG 17 Committee

The SDG 17 Committee shall be constituted as a sub-committee of the University's Welfare Services Board under the chairmanship of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor. The Committee shall be called the "SDG 17 Committee" and shall be responsible for the implementation of SDG 17 policy. The Committee shall report to the Chairperson of the Welfare Services Board, the Vice-Chancellor. The Committee shall comprise key institutional stakeholders, including Deans of Faculties, Directors of Units, the Director of Finance, and student leadership represented by the SRC President. The Registrar of the University shall appoint the Secretary to the SDG 17 Committee in accordance with established administrative procedures. The Committee shall be

mandated to provide strategic oversight, foster institutional commitment to the SDG 17 Policy at the highest levels of university governance, and undertake annual reviews to evaluate progress and impact. Its core functions shall further encompass partnership facilitation, maintenance of a comprehensive institutional partnership database, and support for proposal development and resource mobilisation initiatives.

11.2 Roles of Faculties, Departments, and Centres

Faculties, Departments, and Centres shall actively collaborate with the SDG 17 Committee in planning and executing partnership engagement initiatives within their respective units. Deans, Directors, Heads of Department, and Sectional Heads are to integrate relevant partnership objectives into their strategic plans and submit periodic progress reports to the SDG 17 Committee for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

10.0 MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING (MEL)

10.1. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

The SDG 17 Committee shall design and implement a robust Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework to systematically track progress, assess the effectiveness and impact of this policy, and integrate stakeholder feedback to support continuous improvement and evidence-based decision-making.

The Directorate of Planning and Quality Assurance shall coordinate annual reviews of SDG 17 initiatives. Each thematic area shall be evaluated against performance indicators, including the number of partnerships formed, grants received, training programmes delivered, and technological collaborations executed.

10.2. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Success will be assessed based on the following Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):

1. The quantitative extent and qualitative impact of active Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and strategic partnerships.
2. The total value of externally mobilised funding generated through institutional collaborations.
3. The number and significance of joint research outputs, including peer-reviewed publications, patents, and innovations.

4. The number of students engaged in internships and work-integrated learning experiences facilitated through partnerships.
5. The number of students who have benefited from international and inter-institutional exchange programmes.
6. The number of academic and administrative staff who have participated in exchange and capacity-building programmes.

10.3. Reporting Mechanism

The SDG 17 Committee shall prepare and submit quarterly and annual SDG 17 Progress Reports to the chairman of the Welfare Services Board. A public version of the approved report shall be disseminated to stakeholders and published on the University website to ensure transparency and accountability. The annual SDG 17 report shall be incorporated into the University's broader sustainability report and submitted to relevant national and global monitoring platforms.

11.0 POLICY REVIEW

This policy serves as a roadmap for Kumasi Technical University to engage in global partnerships for sustainable development actively. By focusing on capacity development, financial administration, multi-stakeholder partnerships, technology, and industry collaboration, the University will not only fulfil its core mandate but also contribute significantly to the achievement of the SDGs in Ghana and beyond.

This policy on SDG 17 shall be subject to a formal review every four (4) years by the SDG 17 Committee to ensure its continued relevance, alignment with global best practices, and institutional effectiveness. Notwithstanding the scheduled review cycle, the Vice-Chancellor may initiate an earlier review in response to significant shifts in national priorities, institutional strategy, or emerging global developments.