

TO: Assembly
FROM: Jess Dunning
RE: Signing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Accord
DATE: 6th February

Assembly notes:

1. In 2015, the United Nations established 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to work towards global peace and prosperity.¹
2. The 17 SDGs cover a wide range of issues that affect billions around the world, with 169 associated targets helping to guide work towards the SDGs.²
3. The United Nations aim to achieve the SDGs by 2030.
4. The United Nations recently demanded action on the SDGs, acknowledging that work on them was not “advancing at the speed or scale required”.³
5. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Accord was set up in order to encourage education about the SDGs.⁴
6. The Accord also aims to encourage individuals and institutions to sign the Accord, in order to report on their contributions towards the SDGs.

Assembly believes:

1. The vision underpinning the SDGs, with an emphasis on respect, equality and sustainability, is both a desirable vision for the future, and is also in line with the vision of the Students' Union.
2. That the SDGs are important and affect people at a local level as well as both national and international levels.
3. That the staff and students at Durham should be educated on the relevance of the SDGs to both their everyday lives and their work.
4. That the University and the Students' Union should take action to ensure that they contribute towards the goals.
5. That both the University and Students' Union should report to staff and students on how they contribute towards the goals.
6. That both the University and Students' Union should consider the SDGs in their decision making processes.

Assembly resolves:

1. To mandate the Officers to lobby the University to sign the Accord on behalf of Durham University.
2. To mandate the Officers to make available any reports sent in by the SU and Durham University to all staff and students in order to make them aware of the contributions of the SU and University towards the SDGs.

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

² <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

³ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

⁴ <https://www.sdgaccord.org/>