

# URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY STRENGTHENS POLICY RESEARCH COLLABORATION WITH GOVERNMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Urdaneta City University (UCU) continues to advance its commitment to evidence-based policymaking and sustainable governance through its active collaboration with the City Government of Urdaneta and other public institutions. Guided by the principles of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, the University conducts policy-focused research and provides technical assistance to support transparent, effective, and accountable governance.

Through its Center for Research and Development (CRD), UCU serves as the official research arm of the City Government of Urdaneta. The CRD's Research Manual outlines the University's role in developing and conducting studies that promote the sustainable development of the city through the efficient use of government resources, improved operations, and enhanced public service delivery. This partnership ensures that UCU's academic expertise contributes directly to formulating local policies, planning initiatives, and development programs aligned with the city's strategic goals.

UCU also integrates its policy research activities into its broader institutional agenda for sustainable development. Faculty researchers and program heads are encouraged to undertake studies addressing governance, environmental management, education, and social equity — topics that directly contribute to SDG 16 as well as related goals such as SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

In addition, UCU strengthens the linkage between research and community engagement through capacity-building initiatives such as the "SDG and Community Partnership Training" held in March 2023. This program trained academic leaders on aligning research and outreach projects with the UN SDGs, fostering collaboration between the University, local government units, and partner organizations. Through these sustained efforts, Urdaneta City University reinforces its role as a trusted partner in governance and development. By combining academic research with local policy action, the University not only contributes to the strengthening of institutions but also ensures that research outcomes lead to tangible community impact and more sustainable local development.

**MAKE SDG#16 A REALITY**

