

STRENGTHENING STUDENT VOICE: URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY'S SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENT AND PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

In line with **Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16)**—Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions—**Urdaneta City University (UCU)** strongly recognizes and supports the existence of an **independent University Student Council (USC)**, which serves as the highest governing student body on campus. This recognition reflects UCU's steadfast commitment to participatory leadership, transparency, and accountability in university governance.

The **University Student Council** represents the unified voice of the entire student body. It leads the **Council of Leaders**, an alliance of accredited student organizations, program-based councils, and special-interest groups within the university. This structure ensures that every student sector is represented, promoting collaboration and shared responsibility in advancing student welfare and institutional goals.

Through the USC, students actively participate in consultations, policy-making, and campus-wide initiatives that uphold student rights and promote good governance. The university administration recognizes the council as a vital partner in maintaining democratic engagement and ensuring that decisions reflect the needs and perspectives of the student population.

To sustain and strengthen student governance, UCU continuously **supports leadership and capacity-building programs** such as leadership summits, parliamentary procedure trainings, and student congresses. These initiatives cultivate responsible, peace-oriented, and service-driven leaders who embody the core principles of SDG 16.

By recognizing and empowering an independent student body through the USC, **Urdaneta City University demonstrates its strong adherence to SDG 16**. The university continues to innovate programs and sustain systems that champion integrity, inclusivity, and student participation—building a culture of peace and justice within and beyond its academic community.

MAKE SDG#16 A REALITY

