

Group 9 Universities Manifesto

"G-9 Universities for Climate Action"

7th of June 2021

There are probably only a few doubts: we are facing an unprecedented climate emergency. Efforts such as the 2030 Agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the Paris Agreement, the European Green Deal or the Climate Summits demonstrate the growing commitment of society to the fight against climate change. However, the response to this huge threat in the medium and long term vision seems to have frozen to react to a more urgent threat: namely, that one caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

This is why the public universities that make up the Group 9 are even more aware and insist on our responsibility and the decisive role we play in meeting the Sustainable Development Goal 13 of the 2030 Agenda, **Climate Action**. In the framework of the **Green Week**, which we celebrate between June 5 and 12, we joined in the recent months the global initiative of *Higher Education Centers on the climate emergency state* and we are ready to be more ambitious in responding to social demands to push for the entirety of necessary decisions to stop Global Warming.

As academic institutions of the G-9 we are convinced that it is time to take determined climate action and we want to become key drivers of the needed transformations. We have the potential of becoming **EMBASSADORS** for a change that is urgent, and for which we will become a referent. We are accountable for educating our youth and therefore we want to manifest our commitment to lead this process in the following SDG 13 Climate Action targets:

Facilitate Research that serves as basis for all areas of knowledge to ‘strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries’ (target 1).

It is essential to carry out socially responsible research, of transdisciplinary nature and in a joint and sustained manner. We are already developing research lines within the three broad scientific areas related to climate change: physical bases; impact and vulnerability; and mitigation and adaptation to its consequences. We will not rest until we achieve this, because the core mission of universities is to improve citizens' lives.

Adapt our institutional policies to ‘integrate climate change measures into policies, strategies and planning’ (target 2).

Universities are real-life sustainability labs where initiatives to avoid global warming are being developed. There are numerous examples of good practices that should be placed value on and replicated. As universities, we want to be at the forefront of the struggle against global warming and we aim for our energy consumption to be 100% renewable.

Analyze and revise our study programs in order to ‘improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning’ (target 3).

Climate Action requires us to address climate emergency in its context and from all knowledge areas. Our education programs will present new breakthroughs and identify behaviors needed to face the challenge of Global Warming. The aim is to provide skills for technological and social adaptation to highly uncertain and changing environments to our future professionals in all disciplines.

Our responsibility is to provide the needed knowledge to imagine and develop solutions that will enable to mitigate Climate Change problems. Together we must find alternative ways that will foster a decent and full life for all.

For this reason, the Group 9 Universities is promoting the implementation of the **GREEN9NIGHT** project, within activities that will address and make citizens reflect on the environment and sustainability, providing so a vision and the necessary values to move on a social transition based on environmentally-friendly planet and sustainable development. In this way, the university community wants to contribute to the awareness of society and aims to be the seed that starts making authentic decisions through knowledge “for healthier people and planet”.