

## Climate Action

### Adhesion to the Government of Catalonia's Climate Action Commitments

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#### Introduction

This document outlines UIC Barcelona's approach to sustainability and climate change mitigation, as reflected in its Statement of Adhesion to the Government of Catalonia's Climate Action Commitments, signed by Josep M. Torné Santos, the University's legal representative. Registered on 06/07/2020 (registration no. 9015-1218614/2020).

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#### 1) Purpose and scope

UIC Barcelona undertakes to mitigate its climate impact by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from its operations, improving resource efficiency and promoting a culture of sustainability in teaching, research and campus life.

##### Scope

This applies to all campuses, buildings and operations managed by UIC Barcelona. Efforts are directed towards actions focused on operational emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2 sources) and key enabling measures, including digitalisation, sustainable mobility and procurement.

To clarify the approach by scopes:

- Scope 1: Direct emissions generated from sources controlled by the University (e.g. combustion in boilers or fuels used by owned vehicles).
- Scope 2: Indirect emissions associated with electricity purchased and consumed by the institution, resulting from its generation by the energy provider.

#### 2) Institutional pledges within the framework of the Government of Catalonia's Climate Action Commitments

##### 2.1 General pledges

## **1. Climate neutrality by 2050 and participation in the voluntary emissions reduction programme**

UIC Barcelona commits to the overarching goal of achieving carbon neutrality in Catalonia by 2050 and aligns its institutional planning with the voluntary agreements programme promoted by the Government of Catalonia.

## **2. Understanding climate impact and enhancing internal management**

UIC Barcelona fosters greater awareness of its climate impact by monitoring and improving its performance, including the appointment of a Climate Action coordinator and the annual disclosure of the value of investments aimed at reducing its carbon footprint.

## **3. Corporate culture and climate training**

UIC Barcelona encourages climate responsibility across the organisation by incorporating it into its codes of ethics and corporate statements and integrating climate-related aspects into staff training.

## **4. Advancing the energy transition**

UIC Barcelona plans to implement an energy efficiency programme with quantitative targets, specifically in lighting and HVAC, and aims to procure electricity from certified renewable sources within a maximum period of five years.

## **5. Reducing the climate impact of mobility**

UIC Barcelona establishes measures to reduce the climate impact of its mobility by providing teleconferencing options to avoid travel, implementing electronic processing systems and facilitating the installation of electric vehicle charging points. It also aims to secure environmental quality certification for its fleets within three years.

## **6. Circular economy and digitalisation**

UIC Barcelona is progressively adopting circular economy principles, prioritising the purchase of products with environmental certifications (or, if not possible, assessing their associated emissions beforehand) and digitalising its activities as a tool to reduce climate impact.

### **2.2 Sectoral commitments**

#### **1. As a higher education and research institution**

UIC Barcelona is committed to transforming its campuses into hubs for climate sustainability, ensuring the education of climate-conscious professionals, avoiding research that could increase the human impact on the climate and contributing the expertise of its scientific community to develop solutions in response to the climate emergency.

## **2. As a health sector institution**

UIC Barcelona plans to design and implement preventive and mitigative programmes to address the effects of extreme heat and the potential spread of diseases, train healthcare professionals to meet the health challenges of climate change and leverage advanced technologies to minimise travel while providing adequate patient care.

## **3) Measures to implement the sustainability and climate commitments**

As a reference framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, UIC Barcelona applies the scope-based approach and focuses its programmes and actions on Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions.

### **Scope 1: Reduction of direct emissions**

- Optimisation of heating systems and reduction of stationary combustion: Heating may be provided through boilers or climate control units; operational priority is given to climate control units to reduce direct combustion whenever possible.
- Transition of the fleet to low-emission vehicles: The institutional fleet includes a fully electric van (Nissan e-NV200) and a leased hybrid vehicle (Mazda CX-5).

### **Scope 2: Energy transition and renewable electricity**

- 100% renewable electricity: On campuses where UIC Barcelona may choose its provider, priority is given to electricity certified as 100% renewable.
- On-site photovoltaic (PV) solar generation: Installation of solar panels on campus buildings to produce clean electricity, complementing the procurement of electricity from renewable sources.

### **Energy efficiency and operational control**

- Building management system (BMS) for HVAC optimisation: Implementation of a building management system that enables the automation and centralised control of air-conditioning systems in key buildings.

### **Digitalisation and the promotion of sustainable mobility**

- Paper reduction and digital procedures: To minimise paper-based correspondence and increase digital communication and administrative processes (e-invoicing, contracts, payments and internal workflows).

- Mobility and electrified infrastructure planning (under development): A mobility plan that includes electrified parking spaces and facilities for bicycles and scooters and explores car-sharing and sustainable inter-campus travel options.

## **4) Governance, supervision and future goals**

### **4.1 Governance**

UIC Barcelona will appoint a Climate Action coordinator to support implementation, facilitate coordination among services and draft internal reports.

### **4.2 Supervision and transparency**

The University will further assess its climate impact and annually disclose the value of climate-related investments aimed at reducing its carbon footprint.

### **4.3 Future goals**

- Maintain and prioritise the supply of renewable electricity with guarantees of origin and expand the procurement of renewables where contractual conditions permit.
- Expand on-site renewable generation (solar photovoltaic) and improve energy performance through quantified efficiency targets for lighting and HVAC.
- Progressively reduce direct emissions by prioritising efficient equipment and continuing the transition of the institutional fleet to electric vehicles.
- Implement enabling actions for low-carbon mobility (teleconferencing, digital administration, preparation for electric vehicle charging) and sustainable procurement aligned with circular economy principles.

## **5) Monitoring mechanism**

### **5.1 What is measured**

To ensure effective monitoring of this policy, UIC Barcelona will regularly review, at a minimum, the following aspects:

- Operational GHG emissions by scope: Scope 1 (stationary combustion, mobile combustion and other direct sources, where applicable) and Scope 2 (purchased electricity).

- Total energy consumption and consumption by source (electricity, fuels and on-site renewable generation) and the percentage of renewable energy in total consumption.
- Energy transition and efficiency indicators: photovoltaic production for self-consumption and efficiency measures in facilities (e.g. improvements in HVAC and lighting).
- Enabling indicators linked to commitments: Digitalisation (paper/procedure reduction) and institutional mobility (fleet transition and infrastructure).

## References

- [Statement of Adhesion to the Government of Catalonia's Climate Action Commitments](#)

## Annex A) UIC Barcelona Sustainability Commitments (2019–2020 academic year)

### A.1 Organisation and governance

UIC Barcelona reorganised its internal sustainability structure by transforming the Sustainability Office into an Office for Cooperation and Sustainable Development, a body tasked with coordinating and driving the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the University's activities and facilitating the monitoring of sustainability-related initiatives.

### A.2 Teaching, awareness and research

UIC Barcelona made it a priority to strengthen the University's role in addressing the climate emergency through teaching and knowledge creation. Within this framework, it organised a cross-cutting event for the entire university community focused on climate action ("Climate Action at and from the University", 21/11/2019), which gained external exposure following its presentation at COP25 (Madrid). It also proposed creating a Sustainable Development Research Institute and incorporating the climate emergency perspective into existing curricula.

### A.3 Environmental management, digitalisation, energy and mobility

UIC Barcelona established operational commitments aimed at reducing the environmental impact of its activities. Among these, it prioritised reducing paper use and promoting digital communication, linking this effort to the implementation of digital processing software. In addition, it launched a climate emergency strategy aimed at advancing carbon neutrality or minimising GHG emissions. This strategy involves incorporating energy efficiency criteria into projects and facilities, the transition to a green electricity supply from renewable sources and the design of a mobility plan that includes electrified parking spaces, bicycle and scooter facilities, a car-sharing initiative and the promotion of sustainable inter-campus travel.