

Faro, 23rd of May 2024

Caro Reitor Paulo Águas,

The researchers from UAlg that signed this letter, show deep concerns regarding the global state of unrest provoked by the growing of humanitarian and environmental catastrophes across the world. UAlg, as all teaching institutions, is a fundamental place for developing independent critical thinking and creating the knowledge that may impact the world for the generations to come. We are certain of the positive role that high education has to the personal development of students, enriching society with technically capable individuals and with humans fuelled by a solid awareness for peace, international human rights, and respect for the natural world.

United Nations provide valuable guidelines for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are in line with our convictions and present concerns. In fact, the 17 SDGs are currently used in national and European research funding calls.

In line with recent international concerns of whether academic institutions are, in fact, aligned with the SDGs, including goal 16 (“peace, justice and strong institutions”), we would suggest UAlg to reflect, review and adopt the following actions:

1. UAlg must defend the SDGs at the level of academic projects and collaborations.
2. UAlg must take the lead in the organization of events (e.g., seminars) that inform and inspire students to become agents of change in society.
3. UAlg must communicate its actions to the local media, with the endeavour of inspiring other institutions to strengthen their compromise to the SDGs.

To conclude, we are proud of being part of an institution that is aligned with the United Nations guidelines for sustainable development, end of poverty, war, and social injustices, as well as fighting to curb climate change and protect the natural world.

Nevertheless, in times of utmost injustices, we urge UAlg to strongly defend these guidelines by taking urgent and concrete actions to awake human values among our academic community. Today, more than ever, UAlg must be a place of reflection and development of the human values we need to address the current challenges and those ahead.

Our warmest thank you,

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