Progress Report on Sustainable Development Goal 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

University: University of M'hamed Bougara – Boumerdès
Faculty: Faculty of Law and Political Sciences – Boudouaou
Goal: Sustainable Development Goal 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16)
Reporting Period: 2024–2025
Reference Framework: Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2027

1. Introduction

This report presents the main documented student and academic activities undertaken by the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences – Boudouaou that contribute to providing structured platforms for discussing political, legal, and international issues, in relation to sub-indicator 16.3.4, *Neutral platform to discuss issues*.

The report covers three activities organised by the Faculty's scientific clubs during 2025: a university debating competition, a diplomatic simulation, and a mock trial. It provides a summary of each activity and refers readers to the consolidated documentary report containing further details and the associated supporting evidence.

2. Practices and Activities by Sub-Indicator

Indicator 16.3.4: Neutral Platform to Discuss Issues

Activity 1: First University Debating Championship, "Dialogue of Minds"

The Poli'Talk Political Science Scientific Club, in coordination with the Debates of Algeria organisation, organised the first university debating championship, "Dialogue of Minds", on 15 and 16 April 2025 at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences – Boudouaou.

The event was based on presenting opposing positions and developing arguments according to established participation and adjudication rules, thereby supporting freedom of expression and equal opportunities to present different viewpoints. The competition culminated in a final round between the top teams that qualified through the preliminary rounds. The three highest-placing teams were awarded prizes, and the five best speakers were recognised.

Activity 2: Diplomatic Simulation on the Recognition of the State of Palestine: International Law and States' Political Positions

On 7 May 2025, the Poli'Talk Political Science Scientific Club organised a diplomatic simulation entitled "The Recognition of the State of Palestine: International Law and States' Political Positions" at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences – Boudouaou.

During the activity, students represented different countries, namely Algeria, Spain, Sweden, South Africa, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Germany, and Israel, in a simulation of a session of the United Nations General Assembly. The simulation was conducted under the supervision of professors from the Department of Political Science and also featured an intervention by Dr Soumia Ramdane, Secretary for Foreign Affairs at the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations in New York.

The activity enabled students to discuss an international issue by representing the positions of different states and presenting diverse viewpoints and arguments within a structured diplomatic simulation.

Activity 3: Mock Trial

On 4 May 2025, the Essanhouri Scientific and Cultural Club organised a mock trial at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences – Boudouaou. Participants included students and members of the university community, representatives of the National Gendarmerie, lawyer Abdelaziz Drich, accredited before the Supreme Court and the Council of State and a member of the Boumerdès Bar Association, and legal content creator Amir Hichour.

Students assumed various legal roles, including judge, prosecution representative, lawyer, investigating judge, legal adviser, and expert. Lawyer Abdelaziz Drich provided feedback and guidance on the students' performance, and the event also included a legal awareness presentation.

The mock trial provided a practical framework for discussing legal issues, understanding the different roles involved in judicial proceedings, and practising the presentation of positions and arguments through simulation.

Consolidated Documentary Report for the Three Activities

For further details about the activities and their associated supporting evidence, please refer to the Documentary Report for Indicator 16.3.4: Neutral Platform to Discuss Issues.

Documentary Report:

https://fdsp.univ-boumerdes.dz/wp-content/uploads/durable/Documentary%20Report%20on%20Cross-Sectoral%20Dialogue%20on%20the%20Sustainable%20Development%20Goals.pdf

3. Summary of Progress

The documented activities demonstrate the contribution of the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences – Boudouaou to providing structured platforms for dialogue and the discussion of political, legal, and international issues through diverse forms of participation, including university debating, diplomatic simulation, and mock trial exercises.

These activities provided students with opportunities to present arguments and viewpoints, discuss a range of issues, and engage with differing positions in settings that simulate political debate and legal proceedings. The participation of scientific clubs, academic staff, legal professionals, and representatives of various bodies also highlighted the participatory and practical nature of these events.

Based on the activities and supporting evidence presented in the reference report, these practices contribute to the Faculty's efforts to provide a platform for discussing issues in relation to sub-indicator 16.3.4.

4. Conclusion

The documented activities provide examples of the contribution of the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences – Boudouaou to providing structured platforms for discussing issues and promoting dialogue and diverse viewpoints through academic and student activities combining university debate, diplomatic simulation, and practical legal exercises.

This report brings together the principal practices under sub-indicator 16.3.4 within the framework of the THE Impact Rankings 2027 and refers readers to the consolidated documentary report containing further details and the supporting evidence associated with these activities.