INITIATIVE BRIEF · OCTOBER 2026

AÜD ANTALYA UNIVERSITY DECLARATION

2027 AND BEYOND

A universal declaration on the future of the university.

Drafted in open consultation with the universities of every region, to be adopted in Antalya in November 2027, and opened for signature to every university in the world.



WUF WORLD UNIVERSITIES FOUNDATION

AN INITIATIVE OF THE WORLD UNIVERSITIES FOUNDATION

AUD.NEWS

AUD ANTALYA UNIVERSITY DECLARATION 2027 AND BEYOND

One declaration, adopted by the universities of the world, to guide the university for decades.

The Antalya University Declaration, AUD, is a universal declaration of principles and commitments for the university. It is being drafted through an open global consultation, will be adopted by university leaders from every region in Antalya in November 2027, and will then be opened for signature to every university in the world. Its convener and steward is the World Universities Foundation, WUF.

NATURE	A universal declaration of principle: the shared commitments of the world's universities, carrying the moral authority of its signatories. It is not a treaty and imposes no legal obligation; its force lies in the number, diversity and standing of those who sign it.
PURPOSE	To give the 35,000+ universities of the world, for the first time, a common charter for the decades ahead, defined by universities and not imposed upon them.
PROCESS	An open global consultation in every region, twelve thematic dialogues, a public draft, successive revisions, and adoption by university leaders.
TIMELINE	Consultation opens in October 2026. Draft text in 2027. Adoption in Antalya in November 2027. Signature open thereafter, with a formal review every five years.
SIGNATORIES	Every university, of every type, size, language and region, in every country of the world.
THE CALL	Register on AUD.news, designate a focal point, take part in the consultation, and bring another university into the process.

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THE IMPERATIVE

The university stands at the most consequential turning point in its history.

For nine centuries the university has carried knowledge across every age. The forces now reshaping it are faster, deeper and global, and they reach every campus at once.

01	**INTELLIGENT MACHINES**	Artificial intelligence is transforming how knowledge is produced, taught, verified and trusted, at a pace no institution can govern alone.
02	**CHALLENGES WITHOUT BORDERS**	The defining questions of this century transcend nations, disciplines and political systems. No university and no region can answer them alone.
03	**TRUST UNDER STRAIN**	Societies are asking, with new urgency, what universities return to them. Silence is read as distance.
04	**DIRECTION SET BY OTHERS**	Governments, markets and technology platforms increasingly define the future of learning, often with more coordination than the institutions entrusted with it.

Adaptation without ownership leads to dependency. Change without vision leads to drift.

THE IMPERATIVE

The largest community of minds on earth has never spoken with one voice.

No institution bears a comparable responsibility for knowledge, leadership and the future of societies. Yet the universities of the world have never declared, together and in their own name, the principles that bind them and the direction they choose.

35,000+
UNIVERSITIES

200+
COUNTRIES

260+ million
STUDENTS

15+ million
ACADEMICS

20+ million
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

1+ million
EXECUTIVES AND LEADERS

More than 80 percent of the world's universities have no seat at the global table. The Antalya University Declaration gives every one of them an equal voice in defining the future of the university.

A universal declaration, by the universities, for the universities, and for humanity.

The Antalya University Declaration will set out, in a concise and enduring text, the principles the universities of the world hold in common, the commitments they undertake, and the direction they choose for the decades ahead. It is drafted in open consultation with universities of every type and region, adopted by their leaders, and owned by its signatories. It answers to no government, market or ranking.

Moral authority

A declaration of principle, not a treaty. It imposes no legal obligation; its authority rests on the number, diversity and standing of the universities that sign it.

Concise and enduring

A preamble and ten articles, brief enough to be read in minutes and cited for generations.

Unity without uniformity

It establishes a shared direction, never a single model. Every university retains its mission, culture and place.



THE DECLARATION: NATURE AND AUTHORITY

The architecture of the Declaration.

The final text will be determined through the consultation. Its architecture is established from the outset, so that every contribution has its place.

01	**THE PREAMBLE**	Who speaks, and why: the universities of the world, at a turning point in their history.
02	**THE PRINCIPLES**	The values that unite universities across every difference: truth, freedom of inquiry, institutional autonomy, integrity and service to humanity.
03	**THE ARTICLES**	The commitments universities undertake in learning, research, their people and their place in society.
04	**THE INSTRUMENTS OF CONTINUITY**	Open signature, public reporting by signatories, and a formal review every five years.



The draft text, submitted to the universities of the world.

To open the consultation, WUF submits a draft text: a preamble and ten articles. It is offered for examination, amendment and improvement by the universities of the world. The final text will be theirs.

— **WE, THE UNIVERSITIES OF THE WORLD,** of every size, age, language and region, assembled in Antalya,

— **CONSCIOUS** that the university is among the oldest institutions of humanity still in being, and that it holds the knowledge of the past in trust for the generations to come,

— **RECOGNIZING** that knowledge is now produced faster than it can be understood, and that the questions that matter most belong to no single nation,

— **AFFIRMING** that academic freedom and institutional autonomy are the foundations upon which every other service of the university rests,

— **CONVINCED** that every university, whatever its size, wealth or place, holds an equal claim to a voice in the future of higher education,

— **DETERMINED** that the future of the university shall be shaped by those entrusted with its mission,

— **SOLEMNLY PROCLAIM** this Declaration, and undertake, freely and together, the following articles.

ARTICLE 1

Knowledge in the service of humanity

The university exists to seek truth and to serve the common good of all peoples. It shall not be placed in the service of any single power.

ARTICLE 2

Freedom of inquiry

Academic freedom and institutional autonomy are the conditions of every other commitment. Signatories shall uphold them, and defend them for one another.

ARTICLE 3

The equal standing of every university

No university is too small, too young or too distant to belong. The voice of a university shall not be measured by its rank.

ARTICLE 4

Access to higher learning

Every capable person, at every age and in every place, shall have a path to higher learning.

ARTICLE 5

Graduates for an uncertain world

Universities shall form people of knowledge, judgment and character, able to work with intelligent machines and with one another.

DRAFT TEXT SUBMITTED BY WUF FOR GLOBAL CONSULTATION · THE FINAL TEXT WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE UNIVERSITIES OF THE WORLD

ARTICLE 6

Human judgment in an age of intelligent machines

Universities shall use powerful technologies to widen understanding, never to replace human responsibility, and shall protect the integrity of learning and research.

ARTICLE 7

Knowledge without borders

Research shall be shared across borders, openly wherever possible and honestly always.

ARTICLE 8

Rooted in place, open to the world

Each university shall serve its own city and region and carry its culture, while working with partners across the world.

ARTICLE 9

Responsibility to future generations

Universities shall care for the planet and for the future they hand on, and shall lead by example on their own campuses.

ARTICLE 10

Accountability to society

Signatories shall state openly what they stand for, report on what they do, and review this Declaration together every five years.

DRAFT TEXT SUBMITTED BY WUF FOR GLOBAL CONSULTATION · THE FINAL TEXT WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE UNIVERSITIES OF THE WORLD

WHY NOW

A call long in preparation, now ready to be answered.

The idea of a declaration by the universities of the world, adopted in Antalya, was first advanced by Prof. Bassem Khafagy in 2019 and has been renewed since. On 28 January 2026, in an open letter to the global university community, he called for a common vision for the university, expressed by universities themselves.

That call now has an institutional home equal to its ambition. The World Universities Foundation convenes the universities of every region, so that the call can become a text, and the text a shared charter. The decisions that will shape the university for a generation are being taken now. Universities that intend to shape them must act together, and without delay.



THE PRECEDENTS: DECLARATIONS THAT ENDURED

Some texts outlive their authors. Four of them show how.

1948
PARIS

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Thirty concise articles set a common standard for all peoples and all nations. Brevity made it citable; universality made it endure.

1988
BOLOGNA

The Magna Charta Universitatum

Signed by 388 rectors on the 900th anniversary of the University of Bologna. A few principles, kept open for signature, now carry more than 970 universities in 94 countries, and were renewed in 2020.

1990
TALLOIRES

The Talloires Declaration

A ten-point plan of action, signed by more than 500 university leaders in more than 50 countries. Commitments that can be acted upon travel further than aspirations.

1999
BOLOGNA

The Bologna Declaration

Signed by 29 countries; its clear objectives and regular follow-up grew into a higher education area of 49 countries.

Concise
Read in minutes, cited for decades.

Principled
Principles, not procedures.

Owned
Signed by those who must uphold it.

Open
Open to signature, always.

Renewed
Reviewed, so it never ages.

THE PRECEDENTS: WHAT NONE HAS YET ACHIEVED

Every great academic declaration so far was born in one region or devoted to one theme.

The Antalya University Declaration will be the first universal declaration of the university: global from its first article, shaped by universities of every region, addressing the whole university, for the age of intelligent machines.



THE CONSTITUENCY

Every university, every region, every stakeholder.

The Declaration is founded on the principle at the heart of everything WUF does: full representation. No university is too small, too new or too distant to take part in its drafting, and no one whom the university serves is left outside.

CALLED TO DRAFT AND SIGN

- Universities of every type
- Presidents, rectors and leaders
- Professors and researchers
- Administrative staff
- Students and alumni
- Associations and networks

IN WHOSE SERVICE

- Students of today and tomorrow
- Families and young people
- Cities and communities
- Employers and innovators
- Public bodies and councils
- Future generations

EVERY REGION

- Africa
- Asia
- Europe
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- The Middle East
- North America
- Oceania and the small island states



THE CONSTITUENCY

The role of each constituency, and what the Declaration secures for it.

CONSTITUENCY	ROLE IN THE DECLARATION	WHAT IT SECURES
University leaders	Contribute, adopt and sign	A charter they helped to shape
Professors and researchers	Bring their expertise to the twelve dialogues	A voice in the future of their disciplines
Administrative staff	Bring the reality of how universities work	Commitments that are practical and just
Students	Define the university their generation needs	A future shaped with them, not for them
Alumni	Bring the experience of life after graduation	A university that remains relevant
Associations and networks	Convene their members, connect regions	One charter shared across their membership
Public bodies	Receive and respond	A clear and united voice from universities
Employers and civil society	Bring the needs of society	Graduates and research the world requires

A common charter strengthens every university that signs it.

One Declaration, adopted together, gives every university a clear direction, a collective voice and the assurance that it does not face the future alone.

Adoption

2026 TO 2027

Universities of every region join the consultation

Every region heard, every contribution examined

The Declaration adopted in Antalya in November 2027

Accession

FROM 2028

Signatories grow year after year

Articles translated into institutional action

Progress reported publicly on AUD.news

Endurance

FOR DECADES

Universities shaping change, not following it

A stronger voice where decisions are taken

A text renewed every five years

PURPOSE AND IMPACT

Four questions no university can answer alone.

01	THE GRADUATES THE WORLD WILL NEED	What knowledge, capacities and values must a graduate carry into a world not yet visible?
02	THE KNOWLEDGE TO BE SAFEGUARDED	Which forms of knowledge must be preserved, advanced and shared responsibly, and how?
03	THE LIMITS THAT MUST HOLD	Which ethical boundaries must remain firm in an age of powerful technologies?
04	THE UNIVERSITY IN THE WORLD	What role must universities assume in challenges that transcend borders, disciplines and political systems?



What the Declaration secures for universities, and for the world.

Clear direction

A common charter to guide strategy, planning and partnership for years to come.

A collective voice

Thousands of universities speaking as one carry a weight no single institution can.

Diversity preserved

Each university retains its own mission, scale, culture and place.

Graduates prepared for what comes

Universities united on what the future demands of graduates prepare them better.

Knowledge in service

Shared commitments bring research and expertise closer to the needs of communities.

Trust renewed

Universities that declare what they stand for, and report on it, earn the trust of their societies.



An open global consultation, conducted in full view.

The Declaration will not be drafted behind closed doors. Every university is invited to the table, and every contribution is examined.

The consultation is open to every university and to every member of its community. Leaders, academics, staff, students and alumni may contribute individually or on behalf of their institution, through AUD.news and through regional and global sessions held in person and online, so that no region and no type of institution is left behind.

AFRICA | ASIA | EUROPE | LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN | THE MIDDLE EAST | NORTH AMERICA | OCEANIA AND THE SMALL ISLAND STATES



THE GLOBAL CONSULTATION

From the voices of the world to one text.

1

Consult

Contributions are gathered from every region through open submissions, surveys and sessions, around the questions that matter.

2

Draft

A draft text is prepared from the consultation and published in 2027, with the reasoning behind each provision.

3

Revise

Universities examine the draft, propose amendments and follow the text as it evolves, version by version.

4

Adopt

University leaders adopt the final text together in Antalya in November 2027.



Twelve thematic dialogues, one Declaration.

The consultation is organized in twelve thematic dialogues, each open to every university, so that the Declaration addresses the whole of the university and not one part of it.

01	Academic freedom and autonomy	02	Access and inclusion	03	Research and its ethics
04	Artificial intelligence and the digital university	05	Governance and accountability	06	Quality and student success
07	Cooperation across borders	08	Funding and sustainability	09	The university and its community
10	Skills for the future of work	11	Universities for peace and understanding	12	Emerging and underrepresented universities



AFTER ANTALYA

Sign. Uphold. Review.

1

Sign

From November 2027, every university in the world may accede to the Declaration on AUD.news. Signature is free, public and permanent.

2

Uphold

Each signatory determines how it gives effect to the articles, in its own way, and reports what it does.

3

Review

Every five years, the signatories review the Declaration together, so that it remains faithful to a changing world.



Consult. Draft. Adopt. Sign.

OCTOBER 2026

Consult

WUF opens the global consultation on AUD.news and invites every university to take part.

2027

Draft

A draft text is prepared from the consultation and published for examination and amendment.

NOVEMBER 2027

Adopt

University leaders from every region adopt the Declaration together in Antalya.

FROM NOVEMBER 2027

Sign

The Declaration is opened for signature by every university in the world, and remains open.

EVERY FIVE YEARS

Review

The signatories review the text together.

AUD ANTALYA UNIVERSITY DECLARATION 2027 AND BEYOND

A universal declaration on the future of the university · 2027 and beyond

WUF convenes and safeguards the process. The signatories own the Declaration.

The Declaration belongs to the universities that sign it. WUF is its steward and guardian, never its owner.

The Antalya University Declaration is an initiative of the World Universities Foundation. WUF convenes the consultation, guarantees that the drafting is fair, open and representative, publishes every version of the text, and keeps the register of signatories. The universities of the world adopt the Declaration, sign it, and determine how to give it effect.

Convener and steward

The World Universities Foundation, the global voice for all universities, in every region.

A permanent home

AUD.news: the consultation, every draft, the final text, the register of signatories and reports of progress.

Open to all, without cost

Participation, signature and use of the Declaration and its emblem are free, in every country.

Built to endure

Review every five years, public reporting, and the members of the World University Family who lead by example.

Risks, and the safeguards against them.

RISK	SAFEGUARD
Uneven participation across regions	Sessions in every region, online participation and active outreach by WUF and its members.
A text too general to matter	The consultation begins from concrete questions, and the text contains articles of commitment, not principles alone.
Divergence among universities	The Declaration establishes a shared direction, not a single model. Each university retains its own mission.
Misunderstanding of its legal nature	The Declaration is a declaration of principle with moral authority, not a treaty. This is stated in its text and on AUD.news.
Loss of momentum after adoption	Signature remains open, progress is reported publicly and the text is reviewed every five years.
Limited capacity of smaller universities	Participation is free, and may be as simple as a single contribution or a single signature.

The universities of the world are called to the table.

1

Register

Register your university on AUD.news. Registration carries no obligation beyond openness to dialogue and shared responsibility.

2

Designate a focal point

Appoint one person to follow the consultation, convey its progress and gather the views of your community.

3

Join the consultation

Submit contributions, take part in a session, and examine the draft text when it is published in 2027.

4

Bring another university

Invite a partner, ideally in another region, to join the consultation and to sign alongside you in November 2027.

Prof. Bassem Khafagy

Founder and Secretary General, World Universities Foundation
Founder of the Antalya University Declaration

ANNEX A

The emblem of the Declaration.

The Antalya University Declaration has one emblem: the letters A U D, bearing the square of the World Universities Foundation on the U, with the full name of the Declaration beside them. It may be used, free of charge, by every university that takes part in or signs the Declaration. The emblem and its guidelines are available on AUD.news.



ON LIGHT BACKGROUNDS



ON DARK BACKGROUNDS



ONE COLOR



LETTERS ONLY

Using the mark

Use it as it is: no new colors, no stretching, no changes to the letters. Keep clear space around it equal to the height of the square. On dark backgrounds, use the reverse.

AÜD

ANTALYA UNIVERSITY DECLARATION

2027 AND BEYOND

The future of the university, declared by the universities of the world.

2027 AND BEYOND · AUD.NEWS

WORLD UNIVERSITIES FOUNDATION

An initiative of the World Universities Foundation
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