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Proposal for an Environmental Policy of OBESSU

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Adopted by the OBESSU General Assembly, 22-23 July 2019 in Madrid, Spain

4 In order for OBESSU to promote and foster sustainable work, we need to think forward to the future. By
5 having a policy on how, when and why OBESSU works actively towards being more environmentally
6 friendly, will create an open dialogue about the matters of the environment and encourage other School
7 Student Unions to think sustainably.

Objectives of the policy

9 This policy is adopted by OBESSU with the objective to:

- 10 - Promote awareness of environmental sustainability in practice;
- 11 - Disseminate a culture of positive action within civil society organisation;
- 12 - Show concrete support to the climate justice movement, with particular regard to school
13 student protests;
- 14 - Reflect on organisational shortcomings and act upon them, with a long-term strategy to reduce
15 OBESSU's environmental impact as much as possible.
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Areas of interventions and action plan

● Travel responsibly

- 18 ○ OBESSU Board, Secretariat, Monitoring Committee, Working Groups, Pool of Trainers
19 and participants should try to seek for the most eco-friendly travel solution possible;
- 20 ○ Trains and buses are to be preferred to flights when distance and time allows;
- 21 ○ When flying, if CO2 compensation is available and fitting within reference prices,
22 OBESSU encourages participants to compensate for their carbon footprint;
- 23 ○ The OBESSU Board and Secretariat shall assess the need for travel and consider online
24 meeting as a viable solution to travelling for short terms. Should OBESSU decide to
25 participate to short-term meetings because of strategic reasons, the OBESSU
26 representative will make sure to point out to the organiser other discussion options and
27 propose online meetings for further engagements.

● Reduce, recycle, reuse

- 28 ○ OBESSU will try to reduce the amount of paper in the office and will only buy recycled
29 paper. Paper will be reused when possible and appropriate;
- 30 ○ The OBESSU Secretariat will seek to buy refillable products (e.g. markers) and reusable
31 stationery;
- 32 ○ The OBESSU Secretariat will commit to reducing energy waste in the office, including by
33 switching off all equipment when not in use;
- 34 ○ The OBESSU Secretariat will look for second-hand options when buying new equipment
35 or furniture as much as possible

● Organise sustainable events

- 36 ○ OBESSU will try to reduce the amount of animal products consumed during events,
37 fostering awareness of participants and keeping catering for all needs as a top priority;
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- 41 ○ Takeaway food should be avoided, and the use of reusable containers should be
42 promoted;
43 ○ Recycling of waste will be organised during events;
44 ○ Local responsible caterers will have priority and their sustainability practice will
45 represent a criterion for selection of the offer;
46 ○ OBESSU will avoid completely the use of single use plastic;
47 ○ Bottled water will be avoided;
48 ○ OBESSU will strive to re-use the amount of flipchart paper used and try to limit the
49 number of sticky notes consumed;
50 ○ Printouts for events will not be provided and event outputs and publications will be
51 printed responsibly and online dissemination will be preferential.
52 ○ OBESSU will not provide paper copies of agendas or statutory documents during
53 statutory meeting. Participants and delegates are encouraged to go paperless or cater
54 for their own needs.
55 ○ If OBESSU decides to produce any gadgets or promotional material, the Secretariat and
56 Board shall assess its impact and prefer sustainable solutions.
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58 **Monitoring and evaluation**

59 The strategy will be monitored jointly by the Secretary General and the Monitoring Committee. The
60 Secretary General will present on the development of the strategy and its impact yearly at the General
61 Assembly.