
WELFARE MANIFESTO

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Welfare manifesto

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VISION

*We need a new vision for the
whole world.*

*What about Global, Natural
Harmony?*

BY 2020 SWEDEN SHOULD AIM TO...

FORM A CLEAR VISION

Update "The Swedish Model" into a clear vision that transcends the borders of national welfare, political parties, sectors, social gaps and time.

MEASURE AND AIM FOR HOLISTIC WELFARE

Establish a holistic welfare measure, based on the current suggestion from the ministers, further inspired by Gross National Happiness and our welfare manifesto.

ESTABLISH TRUST AND HOPE

Ensure that the welfare state is trusted and fair, easy and inspiring for every citizen to understand and overview, participate in and contribute to, thus strengthening future optimism.

ENSURE WISE DECISIONS

Establish a system for as a foundation for wise decisions and continuous cross-sector dialogue - including social entrepreneurs and NGO:s - and ensure that all of nature is taken into account.

INTRODUCTION

We thank Finance Market Minister Per Bolund and Finance Minister Magdalena Andersson for the initiative to a new, wider and wiser measure of welfare.

With this manifesto we want to add some aspects as a contribution to what we hope will be a continued dialogue about welfare and how we can live well together in Sweden.

All measurements are possible to implement and some are already being used in the world. Some of them are inspired by the global goals and the basic principles behind Gross National Happiness (GNH).

We feel that these measures strengthen a vision of Global Natural Harmony, which is our interpretation of GNH as well as our suggestion for a vision.

The initiative to this Welfaremanifesto has been taken by GNH Sweden, but the thoughts have been formatted, processed and interpreted in a dialogue between many wise, committed organizations, fellow human beings and experts around the world.

The process has also been filtered through our own life experiences and a dialogue with all of nature. We would like to inspire the government to continue dialogue with us and other actors, and to make similar reflections based on our own life experiences, including all of nature. Democratic, authentic and vibrant dialogue is, as we see it, itself a sign of welfare and a way to a good life for all.

BACKGROUND AND INTENTION

Different measurements of welfare have been investigated and tested, discussed and discussed in many parts of the world. The background to this initiative is the Ministers' proposal for a broader welfare dimension, but it also exists as a parallel process within and between our networks and organizations - a world-wide dialogue on welfare and vision.

We have been inspired by Agenda 2030 and the work on global goals. We see that these efforts are important and feasible, but need to be supplemented with a holistic approach and with a clear sustainable vision.

The manifesto should not be seen as a complete proposal, but rather as an entry in an ongoing dialogue. We would like to contribute with our perspective, support our ministerial proposals and inspire further cross-sectoral dialogue.

VISION AND WISDOM

From our dialogue with representatives from the Government Offices and the delegation for Agenda 2030, we understand that there is an intention to update the image of the "Swedish model". We support this wholeheartedly and emphasize the importance of a clear and wise vision, which is not limited to election strategies or party politics, social gaps or sectors, but which is beyond limits and time.

By vision, we mean an overall image of what it will be like when we live well together in Sweden (and the world as a whole). We would like to contribute with our experience in such a dialogue.

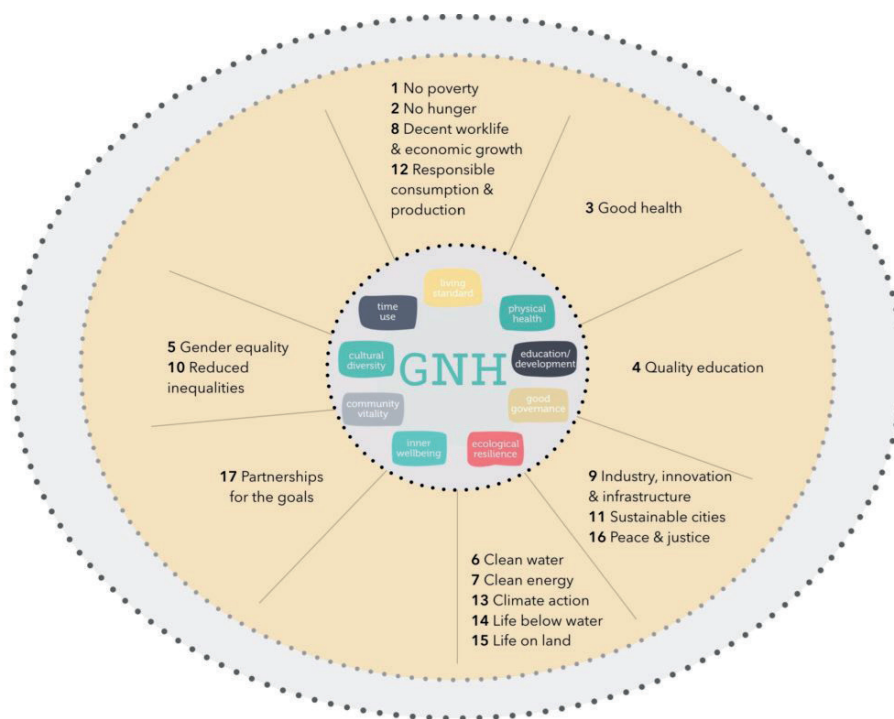
By wisdom we mean analysis, decisions and processes that take into account the maximum number of variables in all living and thus become sustainable on a deeper level. Wisdom is the maturity to form not only a "what" (products and solutions) or a "how" (processes, values, principles and methods) but also being open to a "where from", ie awareness of the place within and between us where new emerge. This is often a blind spot, especially when we go beyond the limits of a sector/party/individual and open for an integrating dialogue. We can see that society as a whole need methods that help us to develop our collective wisdom. One example of how we can deepen wisdom in sustainability decisions is the combination we have developed between GNH and the global goals, where GNH serves as a kind of "tuning fork" for the global goals, offering a cohesive nine-dimensional image of their essence. When assembled as in the image below, we also see that all nine dimensions are covered by the global goals, except for two: time use and inner wellbeing.

We can therefore reflect on what happens when these aspects are missing, compared to when they are included or even highlighted. This way of combining perspectives to highlight hidden or forgotten aspects helps us balance the analysis and make wiser decisions.

The combination can also be done in other ways, but the example shows how we can generate wisdom and sustainable vision work. It is essential for wisdom to take courageous steps in integration and inclusion, so that also the voice of children is heard. And the voice of refugees. And the voice of all nature. We are impressed by the municipality of Norrtälje, where the

notion of citizen has been replaced with residents, to include all those staying in the region, such as for example paperless and summer residents. We are also inspired by the OECD report, that calls for further steps in gender equality that promote female entrepreneurship and promote women in the appointment of senior executives as well as the reduction of economic gaps. We are amazed at Canada's wealth index that, just like GNH, calls for awareness of time-use, a dialogue-oriented approach and a simple holistic view. We also reflect on how we can include nature's rights in the dialogue.

And we strongly suggest the establishing of a Wisdom Minister or, more preferably, a Wisdom Delegation to ensure wisdom in analysis, decisions and processes.



NEW METHODS FOR DIALOGUE

In our dialogues we have been inspired by many methods of co-creation. Here we mention two of the most prominent methods and those we believe most in developing, when renewing the image of the "Swedish model". The methods are relevant both between social sectors and government and parliament.

Cross-sector citizens dialogue

Citizens dialogue is an essential part of our process. While being more committed than ever to society issues and development, many citizens and residents loose interest in political parties. Political parties no longer functions as natural fora for democratic dialogue and ideology. Instead, this new type of cross-sector dialogue is emerging. We support this development, we all want to be active citizens/residents in this way and also contribute to facilitating such processes in various contexts.

A common model for cross-sector dialogue is where the public sector meets business and academia. We would like to promote dialogue between more sectors, preferably five (public sector, industry, academy, non-profit sector and citizens) in order to reflect the complexity we live in, allowing more perspectives to come forward and deeper wisdom to embody the results.

Theory U and transforming processes

Much of our dialogue has been based on Theory U or U-Lab, a world-wide movement and method of transformation of society, working life and individual, designed by other professor Otto Scharmer at M.I.T University in Boston.

The method aims to open both our "what" and our "how" as well as our "where from" (see above Vision and Wisdom). This method helps society leaders to develop a dialogue that not only includes participants horizontally (improving existing patterns) but also vertically (allowing new patterns to emerge). In this way, participants can release restrictive approaches, limitations or habits and instead unlock emerging visions.



THE MANIFESTO

Within and between the networks involved in this manifesto, there is already a deep consensus. Dialogue has been going on for long time and trust is already established. Thus the process was fast and efficient. Within a week we produced the first ten dimensions. All measurements can be measured and some are already being used somewhere in the world.

- 1. Distribution of income**
- 2. Forests and biodiversity**
- 3. Resilience and ability to handle difficulties**
- 4. Future optimism**
- 5. Expected life at birth**
- 6. Unpaid household work**
- 7. Trust within society**
- 8. Participation in elections and society decisions**
- 9. Time use**
- 10. Inner wellbeing and awareness**

Cross sector conference

After stating these, we continued to deepen the dialogue and allow it to be processed by new knowledge and reflection. We therefore invited to personal meetings with stakeholders, where we also allowed some of our different experts to provide further input on different topics such as:

Vision, wisdom and welfare - Anna Rosengren

Nature's rights - Pella Thiel

Comparison between different welfare measures - Marilyn Mehlmann

Gross National Happiness in Bhutan - Alf Persson

Confidence in the community body - Åsa Stenborg

Citizens Dialogue - Marie Ann Östlund

After this introduction, we gathered for an in-depth dialogue where we started from our own concrete life experiences and what shape our true experience of well-being. In this way four further measures emerged. All of these measurements are also possible to measure, although not all are measured at the national systematic level yet.

11. Lifelong learning and learning ability

Measure the ability at the individual level

Measure the ability at community level (ex the degree of decisions based on science)

12. Purpose and meaning

Measure the ability to reflect on purpose

Measure the degree of maturity and experienced freedom to make important steps in life

Measure awareness about time use

Measure attention patterns

13. Experienced involvement in society/local community

Measure quality on human relations

Measure the extent to which an individual can be "whole" in the public space

Measure how an individual can influence society/community

Measure members of non-profit associations, people movements, etc.

14. Resonance/harmony with nature

Measure time in nature

Measure habits/behaviors when staying in nature

Measure species/biodiversity

Measure knowledge and behavior patterns around nature

Measure proximity/access to nature experiences

Measure nature's rights

SUMMARY

We wholeheartedly support the Ministers' proposal for a broader welfare measure, while also inspiring further dialogue on the design. We feel that the existing proposal can and should be developed, preferably through cross-sectoral dialogue that opens for transformation and wisdom.

We also want to encourage and support the government in shaping a vision that goes beyond the term of office, electoral movements and party political boundaries. Such a vision would like to update the "Swedish model" and gain inspiration from the basic principles behind Gross National Happiness. The manifesto's overall proposal for further and / or alternative welfare is summarized as follows:

- 1. Distribution of income**
- 2. Forests and biodiversity**
- 3. Resilience and ability to handle difficulties**
- 4. Future optimism**
- 5. Expected life at birth**
- 6. Unpaid household work**
- 7. Confidence in the community body**
- 8. Participation in elections**
- 9. Time use**
- 10. Internal well-being and awareness**
- 11. Lifelong learning and learning ability**
- 12. Purpose and meaning**
- 13. Experienced involvement in context**
- 14. Resonance, harmony with nature**

With hope for continued dialogue!

GNH Center Sweden, The Relay Network, Föräldravrálet, Sweden-Bhutan Association, Legacy 17, NAV Sweden, DigiLek and Social Venture Network

PARTNERS

The contributing Swedish non-profit associations have extensive experience and skills in sustainability and much to contribute to dialogue on welfare. Here is a brief presentation of those who were most active in the writing of this manifesto.

GNH Sweden brings together organizations for cross-border dialogue on vision and welfare. The association derives inspiration from the deeper principles of Gross National Happiness. GNH Sweden works on three levels: society, business/worklife and self. We do this by means of consultancy efforts, ideally linking different societal actors into cross-sectoral constellations.

Föräldravrálet is a member association that allows adults to voice all those who are now too small to bring their action on climate issues. The organization also works for future generations to enjoy their lives on earth as we have been able to do.

Transition movement is a self-organizing movement aimed at involving more in creating and maintaining supporting structures for conversion at national level.

NAV Sweden operates and develops an open infrastructure with networks and meeting places for sustainable social development, innovation and learning. Together with partners from government, business, academia and civil society, cross-border interaction is created around society's common challenges.

Legacy 17 is a social enterprise and a consultancy group working on ways to strengthen global goals.

Sweden The Bhutan Association is an ideal association aimed at promoting friendship between the two countries and raising awareness of Bhutan in Sweden. Social Venture Network is an international network that works for long-term sustainability in business and business.

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