

Adopted 12 December 2019

Guidelines for Sustainability in “Samfunnsløftet” (corporate social responsibility strategy)



1. Consistent Sustainability

“Samfunnsløftet” is the Group’s strategy for distributing community proceeds to our largest owner - the Northern Norwegian society. The strategy was created in 2018, based on more than 10,000 inputs from residents throughout Northern Norway, on how the money should be managed to create value and development in Northern Norway.

An external community council composed of representatives from different industries and parts of the region assisted SpareBank 1 Nord-Norge with the strategy work and the community council identified, among other things, five pervasive assumptions and values for “Samfunnsløftet”, which also individual initiatives and measures should be promoted and compared with. **Sustainability** is the first of these consistent assumptions. The others are knowledge, interdisciplinarity, gravity and commitment. The guidelines in this document deal with how sustainability as a consistent prerequisite for “Samfunnsløftet” is managed.

The strategy was adopted by the Board of Directors of SpareBank 1 Nord-Norge in September 2018 and will last until the end of 2020. The general governing documents for these guidelines are business strategy, risk strategy, ethical guidelines and the policy for sustainability and corporate social responsibility. The ambition, purpose and principles set out in the policy for sustainability and corporate social responsibility govern all of our guidelines.

2. Sustainability Goals and Sub-Strategies

In order for “Samfunnsløftet” to contribute to the breadth of the UN Sustainability Goals, the strategy was divided into the five categories: *the arena pledge, the youth pledge, the innovation pledge, the local society pledge and the knowledge pledge*, in addition to an annual theme pledge.

2.1 Theme Pledge

The annual theme pledge shall meet a selected sustainability goal each year. For example, it can be mentioned that in the first year of “Samfunnsløftet”, the theme pledge was designed to contribute to the UN’s Sustainability Goals.

14: Life under water, especially sub-goal 14.1 about reducing pollution caused by marine contamination.

2.2 Other Pledges

For the other pledges, the contribution areas have been chosen, operationalised and defined in order for “Samfunnsløftet” to be one of SpareBank 1 Nord-Norge’s and the region's tools for eradicating poverty, fighting inequality and stopping climate changes by 2030.

2.2.1 Knowledge Pledge



Knowledge forms the basis for SpareBank 1 Nord-Norge's activities, for SpareBank 1 Nord-Norge's work on sustainability, and for “Samfunnsløftet” to ensure that the portion of our profit that is reinvested in society, will be used for initiatives and innovation projects that are relevant and can trigger positive socio-economic ripple effects over time. The Knowledge Pledge shall help to promote knowledge that supports lasting, inclusive and sustainable economic growth for the region.

At the heart of the knowledge pledge is the Knowledge Bank. The Knowledge Bank contains data and knowledge about Northern Norway and this is where the extended knowledge base necessary for both the actual work on sustainability and for being able to assess the allocation of funds via “Samfunnsløftet” can primarily be found. Knowledge touches all 17 sustainability goals, but with the main focus on goal 8 "Decent Work and Economic Growth".

Through the knowledge pledge, SpareBank 1 Nord-Norge shall contribute to the following:

- to make available real and objective knowledge that contributes to the region moving in the same direction
- to maximise the impact of knowledge-based and sustainable value creation for the region
- to strengthen the business sector, the public sector, the education sector and other decision-makers through relevant knowledge bases and facts

2.2.2 Arena Pledge

Through the arena pledge, SpareBank 1 Nord-Norge shall contribute to the following:

- local meeting places and urban spaces that generate activity
- upgrading of facilities for sports, culture
- initiatives and collaborations that promote and create culture from and in the north
- local attractiveness, local identity and belonging

The arena pledge therefore has particular potential to contribute to the following of the UN's sustainability goals, which external applications for support and proactive measures are assessed against:



3: Good health that shall *"Ensure good health and promote quality of life for everyone, regardless of age"*. In particular, the arena pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 3.4 in the section on promoting mental health and quality of life.



4: Good education that shall *"Ensure inclusive, fair, and good education and promote opportunities for lifelong learning for everyone"*. In particular, the arena pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 4.7 on promoting human rights and equal opportunities, as well as appreciation of cultural diversity and culture's contribution to sustainable development.



5: Gender equality that shall *"Achieve equal opportunities and strengthen the position of girls and women"*. In particular, the arena pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 5.1 to end all forms of discrimination against girls and women around the world, 5.5 in the section on ensuring that women can participate fully and truly and have equal opportunities for leadership positions at all levels in the decision-making processes of public life.



8: Decent work and economic growth that shall *"Promote lasting, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full employment and decent work for everyone"*. In particular, the arena pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 8.9 to promote a sustainable tourist industry that creates employment opportunities and promotes local culture and local products.



10: Less inequality that shall *"Reduce inequality in and between countries"*. In particular, the arena pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 10.2 in the section on promoting social inclusion, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion or financial or other status.



11: Sustainable cities and communities that shall *"Make cities and settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"*. In particular, the arena pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 11.4 to secure the world's natural and cultural heritage, 11.7 on public access to safe, inclusive and easily accessible green spaces and public spaces as well as 11a on the positive financial, social and environmental links between urban areas, surrounding and sparsely populated areas by strengthening national and regional development plans.



12: Responsible consumption and production that shall *"Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns"*. In particular, the arena pledge will contribute to sub-goal 12.5 on reducing the amount of waste through recycling and reuse, 12.8 on ensuring that everyone all over the world has relevant information about and is aware of sustainable development and a lifestyle that is in harmony with nature, 12.b on developing and introducing methods to monitor the consequences of sustainable development on a tourism industry that is sustainable, creates employment opportunities and promotes local culture and local products.



14: Life under water that shall *"Preserve and use the ocean and marine resources in a way that promotes sustainable development"*. In particular, the arena pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 14.1 to prevent and to a significant extent reduce all forms of ocean pollution, particularly from land-based activities, including pollution caused by marine contamination and nutrients.

2.2.3 Local Community Pledge

Through the local community pledge, SpareBank 1 Nord-Norge shall contribute to the following:

- local activity and local events
- equipment for sports and cultural activities
- communal activities and voluntary work
- local attractiveness, local identity and belonging

The local community pledge therefore has particular potential to contribute to the following of the UN's sustainability goals, which external applications for support and proactive measures are assessed against:



3: Good health that shall *"Ensure good health and promote quality of life for everyone, regardless of age"*. In particular, the local community pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 3.4 in the section on promoting mental health and quality of life.



4: Good education that shall *"Ensure inclusive, fair, and good education and promote opportunities for lifelong learning for everyone"*. In particular, the local community pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 4.7 on promoting human rights and equal opportunities, peace and a non-violence culture, global citizenship as well as appreciation of cultural diversity and culture's contribution to sustainable development.



5: Gender equality that shall *"Achieve equal opportunities and strengthen the position of girls and women"*. In particular, the local community pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 5.1 to end all forms of discrimination against girls and women all around the world, 5.5 in the section on ensuring that women can participate fully and truly and have equal opportunities for leadership positions at all levels in the decision-making processes of public life.



8: Decent work and economic growth that shall *"Promote lasting, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full employment and decent work for everyone"*. In particular, the local community pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 8.9 to promote a sustainable tourist industry that creates employment opportunities and promotes local culture and local products.



10: Less inequality that shall *"Reduce inequality in and between countries"*. In particular, the local community pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 10.2 in the section on promoting social inclusion, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion or financial or other status.



11: Sustainable cities and communities that shall *"Make cities and settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"*. In particular, the local community pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 11.3 on integrated and sustainable settlement planning.

2.2.4 Youth Pledge

Through the youth pledge, SpareBank 1 Nord-Norge shall contribute to the following:

- talent development
- young competence, belief in the future and life skills
- that Northern Norway keeps its young people

The youth pledge therefore has particular potential to contribute to the following of the UN's sustainability goals, which external applications for support and proactive measures are assessed against:



3: Good health that shall *"Ensure good health and promote quality of life for everyone, regardless of age"*. In particular, the youth pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 3.4 in the section on promoting mental health and quality of life, 3.5 on strengthening the prevention and treatment of abuse, including narcotic substances and harmful use of alcohol.



4: Good education that shall *"Ensure inclusive, fair, and good education and promote opportunities for lifelong learning for everyone"*. In particular, the youth pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 4.1 in the section on ensuring that all girls and boys complete free and equal secondary education of high quality that can provide them with relevant and real learning benefits, 4.7 on promoting human rights and equal opportunities, peace and a non-violent culture, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and culture's contribution to sustainable development.



5: Gender equality that shall *"Achieve equal opportunities and strengthen the position of girls and women"*. In particular, the youth pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 5.1 to end all forms of discrimination against girls and women around the world, 5.5 in the section on ensuring that women can participate fully and truly and have equal opportunities for leadership positions at all levels in the decision-making processes of public life.



8: Decent work and economic growth that shall *"Promote lasting, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full employment and decent work for everyone"*. In particular, the Youth Pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 8.5 to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including young people and 8.6 to significantly reduce the proportion of young people who are neither in work nor in education or training.



10: Less inequality that shall *"Reduce inequality in and between countries"*. In particular, the Youth Pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 10.2 in the section on promoting social inclusion, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion or financial or other status and 10.3 on ensuring equal opportunities and reducing discrimination, including by abolishing discriminatory laws, policies and practices and by promoting legislation, policies and measures that are appropriate for achieving this goal.



16: Peace and Justice that shall *"Promote peaceful and inclusive societies with a view to sustainable development, ensure access to justice for all and building well-functioning, responsible and inclusive institutions at all levels"*. In particular, the Youth Pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 16.7 to ensure responsive, inclusive, co-determining and representative decision-making at all levels and 16.10 to ensure public access to information and protect basic freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.

2.2.5 Innovation Pledge

Through the innovation pledge, SpareBank 1 Nord-Norge shall contribute to the following:

- increased innovation and new ideas
- new or better processes or products that are important to Northern Norway
- increased pace of innovation in existing businesses

The innovation pledge therefore has particular potential to contribute to the following of the UN's sustainability goals, which external applications for support and proactive measures are assessed against:



7: Clean energy for everyone that shall *"Ensure access to reliable, sustainable and modern energy at an affordable price for everyone"*. In particular, the innovation pledge will contribute to sub-goal 7.a in the section on facilitating access to research and technology in the field of clean energy, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and an advanced and cleaner technology for fossil fuels, as well as promoting investments in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.



8: Decent work and economic growth that shall *"Promote lasting, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full employment and decent work for everyone"*. In particular, the Innovation Pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 8.2 to increase economic productivity through diversification, technological modernisation and innovation, 8.4 to improve the utilisation of global resources for consumption and production, and work to remove the link between economic growth and environmental degradation.



9: Innovation and Infrastructure that shall *"Build solid infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and contribute to innovation"*. In particular, the Innovation Pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 9.4 to upgrade infrastructure and transform the business sector to become more sustainable, with a more efficient use of resources and greater application of clean and environmentally friendly forms of technology and industrial processes, where all countries contribute according to their own ability and capacity and 9.5 in the sections on strengthening and upgrading the technological capability and capacity of the business sectors by stimulating innovation.



12: Responsible consumption and production that shall *"Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns"*. In particular, the innovation pledge will contribute to sub-goal 12.5 on reducing the amount of waste through recycling and reuse and 12.b on developing and introducing methods to monitor the consequences of sustainable development on a tourism industry that is sustainable, generates employment opportunities and promotes local culture and local products.



14: Life under water that shall *"Preserve and use the ocean and marine resources in a way that promotes sustainable development"*. In particular, the innovation pledge shall contribute to sub-goal 14.1 to prevent and to a significant extent reduce all forms of ocean pollution, particularly from land-based activities, including pollution caused by marine contamination and nutrients.

3. Applicant's assessment and reporting



Anyone seeking support from “Samfunnsløftet” chooses and justifies which of the UN sustainability goals the project has the potential to contribute to.

Goal achievement is included in the subsequent reporting of the project. The assessment and reporting duty spreads knowledge about the UN’s sustainability goals and therefore promotes goal **17: Collaboration to reach the goals**. Therefore, sustainability shall also be emphasised in the communication where appropriate.

The applicant's own assessment and reporting of the project's intersecting point with the UN’s sustainability goals will be in addition to SpareBank 1 Nord-Norge's own assessments as accounted for in Chapter 2.

4. Risk Assessment

The risk of violating the guidelines for corporate social responsibility and sustainability is considered to be low.

The risk of violating the guidelines is greatest in the following processes:

- The applicant provides incorrect information in the application.
- The applicant does not have the required authorisation/signature rights on behalf of the entity they are applying for.
- The applicant is not sufficiently aware of the sustainability challenges related to their initiative.
- The applicant does not demand anything from their suppliers.

5. Control Procedures

Money paid out from “Samfunnsløftet” comes from the community's share of the profits in SpareBank 1 Nord-Norge. We have strict procedures for counteracting money laundering and hidden ownership arrangements, which also applies to all payments from the “Samfunnsløftet”.

On an annual basis as a minimum, a review shall be made of all allocations made. This is to ensure compliance with the guidelines. If violations of the guidelines are exposed, a dialogue with the applicant shall be established where they will be asked to suggest improvement measures.

Based on the feedback from the applicant, the following shall be considered:

1. Discontinue support for the project based on the severity of the violation.
2. Maintain support, based on the feedback and improvement measures implemented by the applicant.