

PARTY PROGRAMME

miljöpartiet de gröna



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1. GREEN IDEOLOGY — SOLIDARITY IN ACTION

The Swedish Green Party is part of a global Green movement that strives towards a world where everybody can live a good life, without compromising the living conditions for future generations.

Our political goal is a society that lives within nature's limits, realizing our deep interdependence on each other.

We want to be a voice for those who cannot make themselves heard. This unlimited solidarity can be expressed in three principles:

- solidarity with animals, nature and the ecological system
- solidarity with future generations
- solidarity with all the people of the world.

A Green analysis of society is based on a holistic view – everything is connected and interdependent. The Swedish Green Party has its roots in the environmental, solidarity, women's rights and peace movements. We are the political alternative for everyone who acknowledges the challenges facing humanity, and who wants to meet them with proactive policies that make a difference in people's everyday lives.

We want to tear down all discriminating and unsustainable power structures in society. We are a

feminist party dedicated to equal rights and potential for everyone to fully participate in building society. Every human has the right to be – and grow into – the person he or she wants to be. We are convinced that differences make us richer and that diversity and equality are the foundation of a just society. Together, we can create belief in the future and quality of life.

The world and humanity are in the midst of a change. Many people have already started making conscious choices in order to live a solidary and environmentally friendly life. People, businesses and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are launching ideas for a better world. The connection between politics and research is important; scientific results should be used when developing solutions to the climate and social challenges. Change requires commitment, but the entire responsibility cannot be borne by single individuals. Society is something that we create together. The key to change is politics, which has to lead the way towards a sustainable society.

We believe in diversity, and diversity is one of the strengths of the Green movement. There are many ways to be Green. We are united by the common task of transforming our society for a new era. We welcome everyone who wants to be a part of this effort.

2. THE HUMAN BEING

The human being is a creative and empathic creature, able and willing to assume responsibility. The amazing diversity in human perceptions and views is what drives development forward.

To flourish, this wealth needs freedom, democracy and safety. Everyone should have the freedom to seek happiness, knowledge and realise their potential. Freedom of speech and opinion are invaluable. A good society must be founded on human rights and liberties. Our common concerns should be handled with transparency, respect, free debate and democratic decisions.

History shows that humans and human societies have been capable of both good and cruel deeds. Atrocities have often occurred in political systems that have diminished humans or put them up against each other, violated people's freedoms and suppressed the ability to think and act independently.

We believe in a democracy with active and involved citizens. We want a society in which every individual is able contribute according to his or her ability to the development of society and in which all people have equal rights. To make this possible, society must guarantee a welfare state which provides everyone with new chances to grow and evolve throughout life. That creates favourable living conditions, which contribute to human development and wellbeing. Society is for all, and is created by all.

2.1 FREEDOM, INTEGRITY AND DEMOCRACY

The Green movement's approach to politics is one of liberty. We are convinced that freedom of speech, freedom of opinion and participatory democracy improve society. It is where humans and cultures meet and interact, where people are free to think and voice opinions freely, and where thoughts, visions and differences are respected, that new ideas flourish.

People's exercise of their freedoms is restricted partly by the limits of nature and partly by other people's exercise of their freedoms. Therefore, everyone is responsible for not limiting or violating other people's freedoms.

Everyone should have the same rights and opportunities, regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, disabilities, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or age. Discrimination of all kinds must be combated. It's not until everyone is recognized for who they are and have the right to define themselves and access to equal rights that we can achieve prosperity for all. Religion can never be an excuse for limiting the rights or liberties of others. Everyone should have the right to practice their faith, as well as the right to abstain from religious practice.

In a well-functioning democracy, people are able to express their views. The Swedish Green Party supports decentralisation. Decisions should be made as close to the people affected as possible.

Letting people choose what kind of education to have in school or how to be taken care of when old are some of the ways to move decisions closer to people. We want to empower people and their influence on the providers of public services.

Democracy means government by people. Everyone should get the opportunity to work politically at some point in their life. To facilitate this, we want a limit on how many times a person can get re-elected to the same office. Within the Swedish Green Party, we use a rotation principle. To expand the opportunities for young people to get involved and influence our future society, we want to lower the legal voting age to 16. It is of utmost importance for democracy that various experiences and backgrounds are represented in all assemblies where decisions are made, and to that end we want to promote equality and diversity in all contexts.

A participatory democracy requires easily available information, a vibrant political debate and opportunities for citizens to attend meetings and submit their own proposals to political assemblies. People with disabilities should have the same opportunities to participate in society as others. If a certain share of all citizens demand a referendum on a certain important issue, such a referendum should be held. In a democracy, no one should be born into a public office. It's therefore difficult for us to see any place for monarchy in a modern, democratic society, and it is our position that it should eventually be abolished.

The principle of public access to official records and the protection of persons providing information must be safeguarded and strengthened. We want a law protecting whistle-blowers that applies to the entire labour market. Citizens should always be able to scrutinize those in power. Corruption of all kinds must be combated, not least in the political sphere. Political parties and individual candidates must be required by law to reveal their donors.

Civil disobedience has played an important part in the fight for democracy. By civil disobedience we mean actions that are forbidden today, but that highlight injustices and social problems following the principles of violence, transparency, desire for

dialogue and preparedness to receive the punishment. Civil disobedience could be significant for democracy in the future as well.

We want to protect everyone's right to integrity and privacy. Today, that right is under threat from both government and private institutions. It should be easy for individuals to find out what information an agency or company has recorded on them. No inappropriate registration or surveillance based on political views or democratic activity should occur.

Democracy must be defended with democratic means. As surveillance opportunities expand, policies must safeguard people's ability to protect their integrity. We oppose all laws that bring disproportional violations of individual privacy. The fight against crime and terrorism is important, but it should not be fought at the expense of human rights.

2.2 RULE OF LAW AND SAFETY

One prerequisite for a well-functioning democracy is that people feel safe and secure. It is important to be able to trust the government. This calls for transparency and openness as well as an efficient and well-functioning judicial system that enjoys public confidence. Citizens need good insight into court and law enforcement activity, and a variety of backgrounds and perspectives must be represented in the police force, prosecutor's offices and courts. We want to keep the civic participation in the judicial process, and therefore we want to develop the lay judge-system by also allowing organisations other than the political parties to nominate lay judges.

The police must be given the means to help, support, maintain order, investigate crimes and do preventive work. Rule of law must be ensured while giving the judicial authorities the tools they need to fight criminality and increasing safety in society. Law policy should be centred on the victims and their vulnerability. Organised crime poses a threat both to democracy and to people's freedom.

Crime prevention is fundamental for building a safe society with low criminality. The most important

preventive measure is reducing social exclusion and vulnerability. Children in need of special assistance should be recognized and given appropriate support by, among others, school, social service and the healthcare system as early as possible. Various actors which might get in contact with children and adolescents at risk, and who can contribute to appropriate measures being taken, should cooperate more. Any obstacles for such cooperation should be removed.

Penalties have both a preventive and a rehabilitating function. Prison sentences should be humane and their aim should be to prevent the convicted from relapsing into crime.

Alcohol and other drugs incur huge costs for society and cause much suffering to those affected. Police work should therefore focus on counteracting the sale and pushing of drugs. An individual's substance abuse is a health issue and should be met with treatment rather than punishment. People who suffer from addiction problems should be offered the best help and support possible, to break free from their addiction and to get as dignified a life as possible, by measures such as needle exchange programs and medication. Our final aim is a society free from narcotics.

2.3 CHILDREN

A safe childhood with plenty of playing opportunities should be a universal right. Children are active co-creators of society and should not be seen as passive recipients of the society adults create for them.

Society should be adapted to different types of families. A family is built on love, safety and respect, not on ideas about what a family is supposed to look like.

Financial vulnerability is a risk factor for children's health and performance in primary school. Children in financially vulnerable families also have lower access to recreational activities. We need policies that give more resources to the most disadvantaged families in order to give all children

security and reduce the gaps in Sweden. Financial vulnerability should not be hereditary.

In particular, we want to invest in supporting children in families where violence, substance abuse or mental illness occur. A child's legal rights must be strengthened in cases where there are suspicions of violence or sexual abuse.

Investments in activities important for children and adolescents can lead to huge human gains in the long run. Schools' ability to see and meet each pupil must be strengthened. We need plenty of places where children and adolescents can meet and enjoy outdoor activities, sports and culture.

Children should be involved in shaping society. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child should become Swedish law, and every political decision should be preceded by a child impact analysis. Long-term thinking is not only applied in environmental policy-making, but crucial also in social planning and economic policy. Investing in children is investing in the future.

2.4 SCHOOL

School should give children and adolescents the desire and tools to learn and develop throughout life. In school, every child should learn to read, write and calculate, create and participate in public debate, collaborate and socialise with others and influence their own lives.

School should give all children the opportunity to be themselves and grow into what they want to become. Pupils shouldn't be successes or failures, nor should there be good and bad schools – everybody has the right to succeed and evolve in school.

Focus must be centred on the pupils, as the thinking and creative individuals they are. A well-functioning school democracy is an important part of a good school. Pupils should be aware of their rights and obligations, and get the conditions and opportunities to scrutinize and influence both society and their own school situation.

The role of politics is to create conditions for a school where we can rely on the curiosity of the pupil and the expertise of the teacher. The role of politics is not to micromanage and control the teachers' work. Any changes in a school must be checked and carried out in concert with the school, its pupils and everybody who works there.

Teachers should give pupils the support they need to thrive on their own conditions. To make the meeting between teacher and pupil work, the school needs sufficient resources. Education should be provided according to each pupil's unique requirements, even if that means additional challenges or demands for extra support, and individually tailored study techniques should be available. Teachers should be entitled to prescribe extra assistance to the pupil who needs it.

All professionals in school are important. The school's mission is not just to give the pupils a good education and provide appropriate health services, but also to give the pupils tools to function as active citizens. School libraries and IT are key resources in the school's educational work. After-school centres have the potential to create diversity, completeness and continuity in children's development and learning during the first school years. Well-functioning after-school activities make it possible for pupils to gain experience in handling social situations, practicing language and respecting others.

School should be accessible for everyone and any obstacles must hence be removed so that everyone can participate on equal terms. Children with mental, physical or intellectual disabilities and other children who need adaptations and support should get such assistance in order to reach their full potential. School should create favourable conditions for mental health and wellbeing. Appropriate support given at an early stage is more efficient than support later in life, both from a humanitarian and economic perspective.

Leaders in school, from principals to individual teachers, are important to secure long-term quality of the teaching and education. Teachers should be professional, knowledgeable and have the training

required for the task. Different pupils learn in different ways and education should take that into account. A good school maintains a strong connection to contemporary research and continuously adapts new research findings.

School should be characterized by trusting relationships and every pupil should be given control over their course of study and study environment. School should be a place where pupils' natural desire to learn is developed. School should recognize the pupils' development and give feedback on their efforts and development, something which can be done in a number of different ways. We are concerned about the single-minded focus on school grades and controls that dominate school policy, and we oppose introducing school grades even earlier than today. School grades should be used when needed, for example as one of several selection criteria for higher studies, and can never be the sole form of feedback.

Today, experiences from the whole world can often be found in the classroom, and this is one of the school's assets. Having another first language than Swedish should be seen as an advantage, which can be used as a vehicle for learning. Teaching subjects in the first language gives all pupils a chance to develop the knowledge and abilities expressed in the national curriculum. Teaching should be based on a global approach and take into account the pupils' background, previous experiences, languages and skills.

Creative activities and physical education are both important for people to develop comprehensively. Ethical discussions and exercises in critical thinking are important parts in the education in order to make every pupil prepared to participate in an evolving society. The school should be free from advertisement. All pupils in primary school and high school should be served delicious, nutritious, environmentally friendly and preferably locally grown food in school. This also applies to those with a diet dictated by ethical, religious or medical considerations. School meals should be free of charge.

Schools should actively promote gender equality and equal rights. All pupils should get the support and the attention each and one of them need, regardless of their gender identity. All pupils should have access to sex education, from a norm-critical perspective. Stereotypical gender-roles, bullying and discrimination of pupils and school staff must be actively combated. Homo-, bi- and transphobia and sexism must not be tolerated in school or elsewhere. Discussing the equal value of all humans should be a natural part of the education from its very start.

The Swedish Green Party welcomes diversity in education, regardless of whether schools are publicly or privately operated. The diversity makes it possible for pupils and parents to select an education with an approach that suits the pupil. All schools, public or private, should be subjected to effective public inspection.

Both pre-school and other types of childcare must be of high quality for all children. Childcare must be available throughout the country, adapted to all parents' working hours. Effective educational work in pre-school gives the children a good start and helps them succeed in school. We therefore want good access to well-educated teachers in pre-school. All pre-schools should apply a gender-sensitive teaching methods so that kids get to be who they are and not forced into old, rigid gender moulds. We want to drastically decrease the pre-school class sizes and increase the number of teachers per child.

We believe in adult education and lifelong learning. When everyone gets the opportunity to contribute and gets the opportunity to choose their own path in life, a strong society can be built. Therefore, everyone should have the chance to graduate from high school, even as adults. A variety of organisation types and pedagogical approaches is good. Adult high school, folk high schools and other voluntary forms of education, such as study circles, are important and make lifelong learning possible.

2.5 HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Sweden should be a country where everyone has access to lifelong learning. Our position as a knowledge-based society rests on a well-educated population and high-quality research. Education is important both for the individual and for society.

We want higher education to be of high quality. One measure to achieve this is to have a certain minimum number of classroom hours. Vocational colleges should offer advanced training in areas where demand for labour is high. The system for allocating funds to universities should be changed and designed in order to ensure education and research of high quality for both small and large institutions.

Universities' independence and autonomy must be improved, in combination with a great dose of transparency. Academic freedom must be safeguarded and equality must be improved. Teachers and researchers should have good and secure working conditions, and students and doctoral students need more influence and judicial safety.

Knowledge contributes to increased understanding of the outside world, regardless of whether it has commercial potential or not. Humanities, art, interdisciplinary subjects make us stronger and can be developed in concert with educations in technology and natural and social sciences. Basic research and research funding that is not earmarked are necessary preconditions for future commercial breakthroughs and successful cutting-edge research.

While research should be free, it's reasonable that some of the public funds invested are directed towards political priorities and strategic investments. This however, must not harm basic research or the universities' freedom to independently shape their activities. Increased gender equality, investments in renewable energy and climate research and increased diversity among doctoral students are some results of our deliberate, politically directed investments.

We believe that the university's role in educating the general public and connecting to society, science outreach, is important and must be strengthened. Research in collaboration with the society surrounding the institution, private companies as well as public entities, are important for the quality of the research and helps making research results widely accessible. Universities should play a visible and proactive role in society and promote democracy and spread research results. Ties between the labour market and the academic world should be strong. Work experience and other languages should be meriting when applying to university.

We seek to broaden the selection of students admitted to higher education. Sweden as a knowledge-based society has a lot to gain from groups today underrepresented in academia getting better study opportunities. Access to higher education must be good in the entire country. Rules should be designed in order to help students complete their studies. Among other measures, study grants and loans should be high enough; there should be reasonable support for students with children, and well-functioning safety nets in case of sickness. A fundamental principle is that all higher education must be free of charge for all students.

Teachers' pedagogical role should be highly valued and must be continuously developed. Students should always have the opportunity to continuously evaluate their education. All teachers, including those in primary schools, high schools and universities, should have good opportunities to conduct research during working hours.

2.6 CULTURE

Culture is both about education and quality of life. A dynamic cultural scene with many different players contributes to a vital democracy. The Swedish Green Party's cultural policy is based on the idea that everyone should be able to both create and have access to culture on equal terms. Culture should be accessible for all. Cultural policy should open up large spaces for creativity and creation.

All culture is a social construction which is about how we as social creatures see the world around us and interact with it. For us Greens, culture is an eternal process that changes in tandem with everything that happens in the world. A culture can never be tied to a certain place but is the result of many different factors that affect our identity. For us Greens, the cultural perspective must never lead to reducing the individual to a part of a collective. Individual variations are a fundamental part of the Green cultural perspective.

Sweden has always been shared by many cultures, and continues to be so today. That is one of our strengths. Within the same individual, there have always been traces from several cultural references. When rulers in Sweden or other countries have tried to achieve greater unity, the result has been conflicts and atrocities. There are political movements in Europe who claim that the idea of multiculturalism has failed. But history shows time and again that it is the implementation of monoculturalism that has failed, whenever it has been tried. The consequences have been disastrous. We welcome the fact that many ideas and cultures can coexist and influence each other within the same society. The Swedish Green Party wants people to always have the right to define and express their own identity and culture. To this end, public support for various cultural expressions is important.

Culture and music schools along with municipal schools and adult educational associations are important in order to make children and adolescents familiar with various cultural expressions while developing their own creativity. All children should have the right to pursue cultural activities in some type of culture school, regardless of the economic conditions of their family.

A rich cultural scene consists of classic institutions as well as free groups and individuals. State-run cultural institutions should make their activities accessible nation-wide. Digital technology should be used to spread culture in the best way possible.

The Swedish Green Party wants copyright laws that are adapted to today's society and that encourages cultural creation in both traditional and new ways.

2.7 EQUAL RIGHTS

Copyright legislation should encourage an active and participatory creation and productions from public broadcasting should be open for free usage to the largest extent possible. Copying and file sharing for private use should not be a punishable crime, while copyright holders at the same time have the right to reasonable compensation.

Well-stocked and publicly funded libraries should guarantee the public's access to a broad range of cultural experiences. In a knowledge society, where it is not just about finding information but also filtering it, trained librarians are needed more than ever. Borrowing books and other media should be free of charge. The presence and quality of libraries should be guaranteed by law.

The cultural heritage is our common heritage. Buildings, monuments and settings of culture-historical value, whether in the city or the countryside, should be tended to and preserved for the future. Regional and local museums of significance should be supported by the community.

A democratic society demands factual information, accountability and investigative journalism. We want to keep press subsidies and reform them to strengthen smaller players. To ensure a plethora of opinions and freedom of speech, we need independent and strong public broadcasting, as well as laws to counteract excessive concentration of ownership.

Consumers should be able to make free and enlightened choices. We want to restrict the reach of advertising, especially among children and adolescents. Advertising that is sexist, targets children under 12 years old, or promotes gambling or alcohol, should be banned.

Physical fitness is important for public health and wellbeing. The sports movement is Sweden's largest social movement. By directing resources to youth sports, sports for the general public, sports for the disabled, amateur leagues and physical exercise, we invest in both public health and quality of life. There should also be plenty of opportunities for spontaneous sports. Public funds spent on sports and cultural and leisure activities must not benefit one gender more than the other.

To make it possible for everyone to realise their dreams of a high quality of life, everyone must have equal rights. Everyone should be able to get the life, the education and the work they desire, without being limited by social structures. Socioeconomic background, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, ancestry or age should never restrict anyone's development. Therefore, the fight for equal rights and against discrimination must be integrated in all areas in society. No one should be subject to hate crime or hate speech.

All children should have equal opportunities for development. To this end, good childcare and school must be available for everyone, and we need fiscal and social policies that ensure all children a good upbringing. We want to improve conditions for children currently living in poverty by helping their guardians provide for their families.

The Swedish Green Party is a feminist party and has been so from the start. Our feminist policy has developed, from seeing women and men as two rigid categories that complete each other, to seeing the complexities in the social structures that trap people in limiting and socially constructed gender roles.

We acknowledge how power structures based on ethnicity, sexual orientation, social class and age interact with the all-encompassing gender-based power structure. We want to change that. Dividing everyone into either women or men is limiting people who can't, or don't want to, identify with either. A third legal gender could be a way for trans-gendered people not to be forced into a rigid, binary gender system.

Narrow gender roles and lack of gender equality restrict people's freedom to choose their lives. Women with good credentials might still have problems pursuing a career in business or academia, while men might be pressured by expectations into career paths they never wanted. We believe that everyone should be able to choose the path in life that suits them, without being limited by old ideas about what women and men

are able to or ought to do. There should be no unjustified pay differences and the statuses and salaries of professions should not depend on gender patterns.

We see how limiting gender roles, unjustified pay differences and parental stereotypes are interrelated. A parental leave in three periods with one part reserved for each guardian and the third part freely disposable, is one way to break old patterns and support men to become more active as parents. Also, when men use more of the parental leave, women's position on the labour market is strengthened. The third part of parental leave should also be transferable to a third person who is part of the child's family.

Domestic abuse should be handled in a rapid, coordinated and consistent manner, by the government in cooperation with NGOs. We want more offender treatment centres as well as shelters that should be provided with better conditions. Children and adults who have been subjected to psychological and physical violence need protection and support, and the offenders need professional treatment. All institutions should be ready and equipped to combat patriarchal violence and violence caused by honour-based structures.

All discrimination must be combated. Society as a whole – government agencies, employers, labour unions and NGOs such as anti-discrimination bureaus – should be involved in the work against discrimination. We also need strong legislation and a strong Discrimination Ombudsman. To make a more open society, all kinds of discrimination must be combated more efficiently.

People are discriminated against on basis of their ethnicity, name and/or accent. We want to combat this. Structural discrimination and racism must stop.

Everyone who needs it should be offered high-quality education in the Swedish language. Academic degrees from other countries should be expediently validated and, if needed, completed.

Everyone, regardless of disabilities or abilities, should have equal rights, opportunities and

responsibilities. All people are different, and society should not only be adapted for those who are the norm. Inaccessibility is what really obstructs people with disabilities from working and operating freely. Lack of accessibility is a kind of discrimination and must therefore be regarded as such also from a legal perspective.

Sweden has five national minorities: Sami, Roma, Jews, Sweden Finns and Tornedalians. Their special status, with their own culture and language, must be respected and strengthened. The Sami are an indigenous people according to several international conventions which Sweden must adhere to. Sweden should immediately ratify the UN Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, ILO 169. Sweden should work for human rights, both nationally and internationally.

2.8 THE ELDERLY

Many people live active lives longer than previous generations were able to. More people than ever before get to celebrate their 100th birthday. Many elderly stay healthy longer; a great asset to society. Older people's knowledge and experiences are invaluable in many ways; whether they keep on working professionally, or just stay as mentors for the younger ones. Old people are of great importance in many voluntary organisations. However, all the elderly are not healthy and many need increasing levels of assistance. Because of that it is important with a safe and good elderly care based on the elderly's individual needs.

A rich life is characterized by self-determination, social interaction and participation opportunities. The elderly as well should be able to experience togetherness, community and physical and cultural activities.

The right to housing is fundamental in our country. For older people, it becomes increasingly important with well-functioning housing situation and, when needed, the right to support and help at home. An effective home-help service is often necessary in order to keep living at home. Municipalities need to be better at planning so that the elderly, when they

want and need to, can be offered room in a retirement home, sheltered housing or some other suitable alternative.

Everyone should be able to trust the quality and safety in care, regardless of who provides it. For friends and family, it is often painful to watch a close, older relative become ill. That is when you should be safe knowing that there is a good care service with high quality and sufficient staff with adequate education. The relatives must feel noticed and their wishes be fulfilled as far as possible. There must be a variety of options within geriatric care. Wishes regarding the staff's language skills should be granted. Voluntary efforts within geriatric care should be encouraged.

Geriatric care is facing big challenges as the number of elderly keep growing, while many care workers are entering retirement. In the future,

dwindling numbers of young people will have to nurture and care for increasing numbers of old people. We want to meet that challenge. At the macro level, the most important thing is providing the young with inroads to the labour market. For the geriatric care, this is about measures to be a good employer.

Staff density must be high enough so that those who work within geriatric care won't have to find themselves in impossible situations such as being alone and having to lift a patient in a way that would really need two persons lifting together. Investing in increased staffing creates new jobs while increasing quality. The food served in geriatric care should be nutritious, environmentally friendly and preferably locally grown.

3. THE ENVIRONMENT

Our responsibility as humans extends beyond ourselves and our generation. Our living conditions will be decided by how well we manage to live in harmony with nature. The Green ideology is not just about our relationship with each other, but also about our dependence on everything around us.

Industrialised society has brought us welfare and technological development, better health and longer life expectancy. In many ways, we've gotten a better life. But at the same time, our exploitation of natural resources surpasses nature's regeneration. Biological diversity is shrinking rapidly. Anthropogenic greenhouse gases lead to persistent climate change. Many types of pollutants threaten our health and environment.

Our lifestyle in Sweden and other economically strong countries causes environmental effects far beyond our nations' borders. We have to transition our societies in order to be able to live decent lives in the future, without compromising the opportunities for ourselves, people in other countries and future generations.

This transition compels us to use natural resources in a more efficient and fair way. We in the rich countries must adapt our consumption so that our ecological footprint per capita reaches a globally sustainable level as soon as possible. To protect the environment, we should use the precautionary principle as far as possible. If we are looking at potentially serious impact, or irreversible harm, then we can't wait for science to prove beyond all doubt before we take action to prevent environmental damage.

It is still possible to turn things around and avoid disastrous environmental consequences. That

requires bold environmental policies, as well as redistributive policies, to minimize the consequences of the environmental changes that have already happened, and those that are happening now.

3.1 THE LIMITS OF NATURE

Nature works in cycles. Human society must take this into account and emulate it. All our activities must keep within the ecological limits.

We humans live on a planet with limited resources and this sets the limits for our activity. Human impact is now the driving force behind the main changes in Earth's environment. We already exceed, or threaten to exceed, the limits of nature in many areas. Among others: the extraction of finite resources, emission of greenhouse gases, loss of biodiversity, addition of nitrogen and phosphorus to land and sea, land use change, global freshwater use, acidification of the oceans and distribution of airborne particles and pollutants. The consequences of this will be disastrous for large parts of humankind. In the long run, they might even alter the very prerequisites for life on Earth.

Many of these processes are strongly interlinked. If limits are exceeded in one area, it becomes increasingly difficult to keep within safe limits in other areas. We must urgently minimize emissions from combustion of fossil fuels, to avoid a disastrous rise in temperatures and acidification of lakes and oceans. Natural forests, wetlands and other vulnerable biotopes should be restored to increase biodiversity, increase freshwater quality and availability and decrease the leakage of nutrients to lakes and oceans. This means that we need policies

that take nature into account in a completely different way from what is the case today. Sweden must take responsibility for the effects of our production and consumption on the ecological systems, both here and in other countries.

The Swedish Green Party wants a society that uses resources in such an efficient and just manner that basic human needs can be satisfied everywhere. To accomplish this, we need to decrease the use of finite resources, stop wasting energy and materials, and reuse and recycle more. The goal is to achieve a circular economy. That would give a sustainable production of ecosystem services as well as more resilience in human communities and ecosystems. The Swedish mining industry should be based on long-term management of mineral resources. Environmental concerns should outweigh short-term exploitation interests.

We want it to be both easy and cheap for all to reuse and repair things instead of continuously buying new ones. We want to see strict demands on producers to adapt new products to a circular economy, and to phase out environmentally harmful substances. We recognize the need for economic instruments and legislation to achieve more efficient use of energy and materials. We want to reduce the use of plastic.

3.2 BIODIVERSITY

The Green commitment is based on the insight of our part in, and dependence of, the ecological system. Nature is also a place for recreation, beautiful experiences and increased well-being. Respect for natural diversity is a core value of the Green ideology. We believe that all living beings have an intrinsic value regardless of its utility for humans.

Many habitats around the world are being destroyed, and many species of plants, fungus and animals are about to disappear. Also in Sweden there are several critically endangered species. Exploitation of species and habitats, invading foreign species, pollutants and climate change are the greatest threats against biodiversity. The losses are serious. They could mean the collapse of

ecosystems, depriving us of important ecosystem services, such as crop pollination, air and water purification or fish stocks.

Nature conservation must be given more importance in Sweden and the EU. Sweden's and the EU's protected areas are too small and insufficient to safeguard biodiversity. The protection of oceans, forests, wetlands, beaches and several other biotopes must be expanded and strengthened. Usage of forest, water and land must be connected to a responsibility not to damage its biodiversity.

A large share of the world's biodiversity can be found in the rainforest. Tropical forests are being deforested, which affects both nature and humans. There are several reasons for deforesting: logging, mining, oil extraction, hydro power, roads, grazing and agriculture. Consumption of e.g. palm oil and meat from animals fed with soy beans from what used to be rainforest contribute to deforestation. Sweden must work for joint commitments to stop the loss of biodiversity. Conservation of endangered species and habitats is of global importance and therefore in need of supranational decisions.

Clean water is a prerequisite for maintaining biodiversity. In order to make lakes, rivers and oceans recover, we need extensive measures to reduce pollution from transportation, sanitation, agriculture and industry. Emissions of pollutants such as nitrogen, phosphorus, drug residues, endocrine disruptors, heavy metals and nanoparticles should be reduced by, among other things, separating industrial sewage from domestic sewage, improving sewer systems and sewage treatment and replacing environmentally harmful products. Sweden must act through international organisations, especially the EU, to make all countries bordering the same body of water implement these measures.

Hazardous substances are today a serious threat to both humans and nature. The chemical assessment must be based on the precautionary principle, since it might take a while until negative effects become apparent. Children are especially vulnerable for many toxic substances and products and places

where children spend much time must be given extra attention. The approval and control processes, at the national level and in the EU, must be tough. Special consideration must be taken to the combined effects of chemicals.

3.3 CLIMATE

The current, and accelerating, climate change is jeopardizing our future. It does not only affect the lives of individuals, but also the global economy and the survival of entire nations. Despite our knowledge of all this, the greenhouse gas emissions keep growing.

Sweden should be a leader in decreasing man-made climate change. We are one of the countries that were industrialised early, and we have a historical responsibility for the emissions caused while we built our prosperity. We are still causing much higher emissions per capita than what is globally sustainable. Sweden is also in a uniquely good position to lead the transition to a sustainable society and show the opportunities of an alternative model of development. That would give our transition a greater effect than just what is gained from our own emission reductions.

Sweden should have a leading role in international climate negotiations and develop climate cooperation between countries, while we show solidarity in action by strong support to poorer nations. In order to be credible, Sweden's emissions of greenhouse gases must immediately shrink to a globally sustainable level.

In order to reach the climate goals, the pace of development of green technologies must increase. The combined energy and resource-consuming consumption must come down to a sustainable level. We need new policies that facilitate the transition to a more sustainable lifestyle. Consumption with a negative climate impact, such as fossil-fuelled transportation, fossil energy and animal products, must be reduced. Political action must combine with civic commitment for a more sustainable lifestyle. Such a lifestyle change will be different for different people. By travelling more

environmentally friendly, buying more local produce, eating more vegetarian food, making more effective use of energy at home and consuming less gadgets, we increase our possibilities to live a good life within the limits of nature. We are convinced that a climate-smart society is also better for people. New policies and new attitudes will make it possible for more people to value leisure time and close relationships higher than salaried work and material status.

In order to meet the climate goals, we need a climate policy framework with binding caps on our climate impact, in Sweden as well as internationally. Powerful economic instruments are necessary. Climate-smart choices should be cheaper. Subsidies harmful to the climate should be phased out, and climate goals should govern investments in infrastructure. Drilling for gas and oil and mining for uranium should be banned in Sweden. Peat should be regarded as a fossil fuel. At the international level, we want to work towards a moratorium on all new sources of fossil fuels.

To reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, carbon capture and storage or other methods for binding greenhouse gases might be needed. However, these must not become an excuse for continued emissions. The precautionary principle should be used in order not to cause new environmental problems when we try to solve the old ones.

Major changes demand that people get together. Decentralised energy production, new transportation habits and sustainable consumption habits are some examples of measures included in the transition we have to achieve together. An offensive climate policy must be combined with efforts to increase equality and equity.

3.4 AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING

Agriculture, forestry and fishing are very important industries in Sweden. They are needed for sustainable food supply, and important for a

healthy economy and a living countryside. For that reason, we have to manage them so that they are useful for people today, as well as for future generations. The Swedish Green Party wants the EU common agricultural policy to be directed towards promoting small-scale production, biodiversity and environmental concerns.

In a world of increasing population, it is of great importance to preserve agricultural land and its fertility. Land-policy in Sweden must have long-term objectives and good agricultural land must be protected from exploitation. Grazed meadows and pastures are important elements of the landscape in order to conserve biodiversity as well as knowledge of the country's cultural history. It's also important not to reduce biodiversity through monocultures and inappropriate agricultural practice. The usage of genetically modified seed or breeding stock, GMO, comes with new types of risks. Any use of GMO must therefore be guided by the precautionary principle. Agricultural policy should help minimizing the negative impact on the environment. This should be done through legislation, economic instruments as well as building knowledge. It's not fair that Swedish requirements to protect the environment, climate and animals knock out Swedish agriculture in favour of agriculture in countries where environmental standards are lower and animals treated worse. Therefore, we want to level out competition by procuring local produce to kitchens in public institutions, by clearly labelling origin and by implementing economic instruments to disadvantage food produced under worse conditions than what is accepted in Sweden.

Sweden's agriculture should be viable, competitive and present all over the country. Compliance with the environmental quality targets and animal care should be in focus and production should contribute to a high degree of self-sufficiency in staple foods and feedstuff. Today's modern agricultural companies often rely on several business areas, such as specialised food production, their own energy production, farm shops, tourism and nature conservation. The Swedish Green Party welcomes this development

and works for a transition to ecological and agriculture based on closed eco-cycles. The transition to ecological agriculture should be supported by the design of the subsidies, rules for public procurement and legislation.

Sweden is essentially a forest country. The forest is important for biodiversity, as raw material for forest products, for energy and for recreation. We support and encourage research and business ventures to develop new high-quality and environmental products from the forest.

A living forest has a long harvest cycle and is therefore more vulnerable to poor management and ill-considered exploitation. The responsibility for long-term replanting with a rich variety of species and climate adaptation must be strengthened, especially when it comes to deciduous trees and pines. We believe that a larger share of the Swedish forest must have a diversity of species that gives long-term resilience. To achieve that, we need to modernise forestry by decreasing clear-cuts, and increasing the use of methods without clear-cutting.

Particularly valuable forests should be protected from logging. We need to exempt both areas in large tracts as well as many smaller areas from commercial forestry. In order to halt biodiversity loss, we also need to recover and restore the natural value in forests that are already affected.

Humans have harvested their food from the oceans since times immemorial. By activities such as industrial fishing, eutrophication, pollution and exploitation of coastal zones, these ecosystems have been increasingly disturbed, occasionally disastrously. Sweden should proactively work through the EU and international organisations in favour of responsible fishing which rebuilds depleted stocks and that does not take out more than what is replenished. Fishing rights should be distributed based on sustainability criteria. Strict requirements must be imposed on the companies that get to use our common fish resources for profit. Sweden should work internationally to make sure that the ban on commercial whaling is enforced.

Coastal and recreational fishing are important for people's wellbeing and to keep our archipelagos alive. We want strong protection of key biotopes in water, and of areas that are especially important for marine biodiversity or many species' reproduction. One way to increase the protection is to establish marine reserves and no fishing-areas.

3.5 ANIMALS

All animals have an intrinsic value regardless of any value they might have for humankind. Animals have the right to exercise natural behaviour and to not be inflicted with suffering, and this demands extensive changes in animal husbandry. Humans breed animals to get food, clothes and as test objects for potentially dangerous products. This comes with great responsibility to make sure that the animals are treated well. Strict requirements for breeding should for example be applied in public procurement. We want to prohibit the keeping of animals for fur production only.

The intentions of the animal welfare legislation are not fully reflected in the real world, and compliance with the laws must be improved. Animals should have the right and be able to exercise their natural behaviour, and animal husbandry has to be adjusted to that. Controls must be improved. We want to introduce an ombudsman for animal ethics, and increase the opportunities for animal welfare organisations to initiate proceedings in animal welfare cases. We want to strengthen the work against breeding that might lead to animal suffering. The animal welfare law should be applied

fully in the food industry. Enough funds must be allocated to enable frequent and effective controls of animal husbandry, transports and slaughter.

In order to improve the levels of animal welfare standards, Sweden must work proactively in the EU to have high standards implemented throughout the union, and to allow individual member states to move even further. Sweden should work towards binding animal welfare rules also in the UN and the WTO. Sweden should work actively to combat poaching and trade in endangered species. International trade agreements should include animal welfare clauses in order to avoid increased cheap imports from countries with lower animal welfare standards. Animal testing should urgently be phased out and replaced with animal-free methods. People who work with animals must have good knowledge of their behaviour. Increased research on alternatives to animal testing could make Sweden a leading nation in that area. As long as we still have animal testing, these need to be controlled more carefully.

There must be increased focus on ecological as far as hunting is concerned. The animal welfare perspective should also be taken into account. Hunting methods that subject animals to unnecessary suffering must be banned. Sweden should accommodate viable populations of the four large predators: wolf, lynx, bear and wolverine. The predators' existence in Sweden shouldn't just be about survival; it should also be about them reclaiming some of their ecological function in the ecosystem.

4. THE ECONOMY

If humanity is to manage the challenges of our time, including climate change, resource scarcity and growing economic inequality, a new economic policy is needed. Such a policy must be based on all the good we can create in egalitarian societies within the limits of nature, built on the vital functions maintained by the ecosystems.

We have to readjust to an economy that takes human well-being and the environment into long-term consideration. Constant economic growth in the traditional sense is not possible on a planet with limited resources. It's a political responsibility to design market conditions to ensure that resources are used in accordance with the requirements for a sustainable society.

When the economic system clashes with the ecological system, the economic system will have to adjust. It's about a few self-evident principles. What is good for people and the environment should be cheap, what is bad should be expensive, and what is too harmful should be banned.

Economic policy should aim for economic equality. That is an important foundation for the well-being of societies and people. Equality is not about people being the same; it's about giving everyone good opportunities despite different conditions. In societies with increasing inequality, people lose faith in the future and social unrest arises.

4.1 THE LIMITS OF THE ECONOMY

Economics is the science of managing scarce resources. Today, however, humanity acts as if the

Earth's resources are infinite. This is a short-term perspective that we must abandon. It is time to think long-term.

People's ability to shape their own lives and realise their ideas give the economy its strength and potential for change. Sweden's prosperity and welfare are dependent on competent and working people and a diversified and technologically advanced private sector, supported by well-functioning public service. We want to promote education and work that give people more power over their own lives.

All economic actors have a responsibility to take ethical, social and ecological factors into consideration. This should be encouraged by the laws and rules of society. Long-term sustainability and balance should be given priority over short-term profit motifs. Ethical entrepreneurship and work should be rewarded. Economic gaps should be decreased.

The real costs for extracting raw materials and producing and distributing products should be reflected in the final market price. This builds on the polluter-pays principle. Costs that befall the environment or other third party should be internalised in the price through taxes, fees or some other suitable instrument. This principle is especially important in climate policy; the climate effect of all goods and services should be included in their prices.

The market offers increasingly complex products and services. We want strong consumer protection through public consumer guidance, clear labelling of goods and adequate consumer education in school.

The role of the financial system is to support the real economy by channelling savings and investments and providing payment services and diversification of risk. Greed, excessive indebtedness and speculation should be combated. When private debts grow too large, they become a threat both to the individuals and to the economy. An economy based on constantly increasing levels of debt is not viable in the long run. Society must combat the excessive risk-taking that has dominated the financial markets. We want a tax on some financial transactions. We should consider dividing the banking sector into one with more traditional business, and one with more speculative investment business.

Sweden should have an economy that is open to the world, and strive towards free trade on fair terms.

The transition of our economy requires new consumption patterns and large investments in new, environmentally friendly technology, infrastructure, housing, and energy supply and food production. To facilitate this, we need stable and long-term rules for firms and households.

The government should ensure sound market conditions through legislation and monitoring. The government should also mitigate business cycle effects through preventive financial and monetary policies, and strive towards stable prices and low unemployment.

4.2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Humans are creative and creating. Human ingenuity laid the foundation of the rapid economic development during the last centuries. It has meant that more and more people in our world have been able to get their basic needs satisfied, and to live in safety and prosperity. At the same time, the economic development has been based on an economic growth that to a large extent has been made possible by increased consumption of resources, and that has led to increased levels of greenhouse emissions and decreased biodiversity.

A permanent pursuit of economic growth, without concern for what it consists of, threatens to cause environmental and social problems in the long run, wear down people and destroy the preconditions for sustainable welfare. Therefore, we have to readjust our societies and economic systems to the conditions that all economic development has to take place within the limits set by nature and people's well-being and quality of life. It is possible, but requires both technological and social innovations. These are often interconnected. New technology makes it easier to live in a way that is better for the environment. We will keep finding smarter and more efficient ways to manufacture goods and produce energy. By employing economic instruments and market regulations, we could use the power of economic development to meet the challenges of managing environment and resources.

In order for environmental gains from technological development not to be neutralised by increased consumption, we have to change our lifestyles. Our way of life, as individuals and together as a society, will change. Our lifestyle and consumption must contain itself within what is globally and long-term sustainable.

This challenge is greater than what mankind has met throughout history, but the experience from what we have accomplished so far can be used to overcome it. In our country, there is a tradition to give priority to a different kind of development than what can be measured in short-term GDP growth, such as statutory vacation, work safety and parental leave. We are convinced that a society sustainable for both people and the environment also in the future, demands that we have the courage to make political decisions, even if the values of these do not lend themselves to economic growth calculations of the traditional kind.

Our way of measuring the economy and quantifying progress must be changed at the core. We need measures of what constitutes a positive development other than traditional GDP growth, which only measures how much we produce and consume. We need new measures that focus on how people and the environment

fare. It is obvious that a system is not sustainable when things that are socially and economically disastrous in the long run still can be profitable in the short run.

By using new welfare measures and changing priorities, we can build an economy that breaks free from the dependence on constant growth. One part of that work is to share resources, in a way that gives increased financial safety during times of uncertainty. Being able to have work and financial stability is an important part, as is having sustainable working conditions and much time off from formal work.

The public sector is currently too dependent on economic growth for its funding, as it largely consists of activities with limited possibilities for productivity increases. We will probably need new tax bases, and we are ready to, through taxation, increase public consumption at the expense of private consumption, when that is necessary in order to safeguard welfare services and social safety.

4.3 TRADE AND INDUSTRY

The competitiveness of Sweden's private sector is largely built on high knowledge content, competent co-workers, well-functioning safety nets and a well developed infrastructure. Sweden is at the forefront of many research areas, and several Swedish companies are world leaders.

The private sector is constantly evolving. Some companies and work opportunities are lost, while others are added. Many Swedish companies have come a long way within green technology and when it comes to presenting sustainable solutions. To support this, we would like to make forward-looking investments in education, research, talent and commercialisation of innovations. A responsible and creative private sector and entrepreneurship are important to develop the Swedish economy and meet the challenges facing the world.

We want to make it easier for people with good ideas to start and run businesses. In that way, many

new jobs can emerge. Society should support the growth and development of small companies. Help with counselling and capitalization at an early stage, along with lower social security fees and reduced or abolished sick pay responsibility, are important reforms to help spark entrepreneurship.

The step from idea and innovation to prototype, product and market introduction must become shorter. An important part of the future for Swedish business is in the green transition, which raises new demands on expertise and ways of working. We welcome open source software and hardware as ways to stimulate creativity, entrepreneurship and job creation. Trade and industry should have long-term rules that create stable investment conditions. Business owners should feel assured that investments in energy efficiency and green adjustment will pay off in the long run. We want to make it easier for Swedish businesses to adjust their production in order to become sustainable and continue to be competitive.

We want to see new types of enterprises in the social economy. Cooperatives and local company funds are one way to let local societies take part in the emerging economy. We also want to promote new types of business entities that are not only about pursuing economic goals, but also about pursuing public interest. Gender quotas for corporate boards are needed to achieve gender equality.

The public and private sectors play fundamentally different roles. However, in some cases there might be reason for the government or a municipality to own and run businesses. In companies where public entities are owners or partners, the owners should be active and the influence used to promote for example sustainability and gender equality. Government pension funds should apply criteria regarding ethics and environmental conduct for the companies they invest in.

Red tape should be combated by actively pursuing regulation simplification. Monopolies and cartels should be counteracted in order to make markets work. We want to invest heavily in railroads, housing, energy efficiency and renewable energy, which will contribute to Swedish industry's ability

to deliver green goods and services and be competitive on global markets.

4.4 LABOUR MARKET

Labour market policies should promote a well-functioning labour market in the entire country. Educational and economic policies play important roles here. The labour market must be better at matching employers with employees.

We support the Swedish Model, in which the parties of the labour market together negotiate rules for the labour market, which are regulated in collective bargaining agreements. A prerequisite for the Model's effectiveness is that a large share of employees is unionized, and union membership should be encouraged. Our policies should give everyone the opportunity to contribute to society based on their individual preconditions.

We want to protect a well-functioning labour law, and grant employees influence over both working hours and work content. Employees should have good development opportunities and feel involved, secure and respected. Everyone has a right to preventive care and a physically and psychosocially good work environment.

Employees today have very different work conditions and the differences are increasing. In the sector of the labour market where employees have weak positions and few rights, their degree of control is minimal. There we have workers who always need to be available, and who are expected to, without compensation, work more than the agreements stipulate. We see how this wears people down and how some, including many young people, are left with no possibilities to come back to the labour market. Their working conditions must be improved.

Discrimination does not only affect the individual, but is costly for society as well. Structural discrimination can be found everywhere in the labour market, affecting salaries, employment statuses and working hours. Equal pay and economic independence are important for

promoting equality between women and men. It is also of importance to provide appropriate working conditions and safe employment contracts in today's female-dominated industries. Employees within publicly financed operations should be entitled to full-time employment, while retaining the option to part-time.

Sweden's gender equality is one of the highest in the world, but our labour market is still segregated by gender. In order to break this segregation, we must actively help people choose professions in a free manner regardless of gender norms.

More often than men, women work part-time and unpaid at home, nursing children or parents. Publicly funded childcare and elderly care are therefore important for gender equality and women's control over their own life and time. Childcare should be available also for children whose guardians work in the evening, weekend or night.

While many people today have uncertain work opportunities or are simply shut out from having the opportunity to work and provide for themselves, others work so much that they suffer from stress and exhaustion. Balancing work and leisure time is for many a question about quality of life.

Our vision is a working life characterized by a healthy balance between work and leisure. One important reform is to shorten the working hours. As a first step, our goal is to shorten the standard working hours to 35 hours per week. Society as a whole benefits from people having the energy to work until retirement instead of succumbing to stress or too harsh working conditions.

4.5 ENERGY

The last centuries of economic development were made possible by the availability of cheap energy in the form of coal and oil, which have caused massive greenhouse gas emissions. Changes in climate and environment and the new methods for extracting fossil gas and oil mean that the world is facing huge challenges and needs international agreements to stop extracting fossil energy sources. The transition

to a long-term sustainable economy is to a large extent about how to adjust the energy system, and the economics around it.

A forward-thinking energy policy can make it possible to satisfy energy demands completely without fossil fuels and nuclear power. Such an energy policy rests on three pillars: we need to use energy a lot more efficiently than we do in Sweden today; we have to lower our demands for energy-intensive living standards; we have to increase the production of renewable energy until its share is one hundred percent.

At this moment, we waste a lot of energy. There is much potential in using energy more efficiently in vehicles, premises, housing and industry, something which is also profitable.

There are ample sources for renewable energy in Sweden. We live in a land with natural conditions for developing wind power, wave power and solar power. We are currently only using a fraction of this potential. Sweden should be an important producer of biofuels, both for heating and for powering vehicles. Environmental demands on design and location should apply to renewable energy as well.

From our point of view, the hydro power potential is already fully utilised, and the last pristine rivers and streams should therefore be protected. However, we do want to rebuild existing hydro plants and make them more efficient, while at the same time adapting them to higher environmental standards, which ensure fish migration.

Nuclear power is ultimately based on extremely environmentally disruptive mining of uranium, a finite resource, and generates radioactive waste which is passed on to future generations to handle. Nuclear power also carries large risks when mining the uranium, running the reactors as well as transporting the fuel and waste. Moreover, civilian nuclear power makes it possible to produce nuclear weapons. For these reasons, nuclear power has no place in a sustainable society. We oppose building new reactors in Sweden, as well as upgrading the power of the existing ones, and want to commence the abolishment of nuclear power immediately.

We need policies to promote the transition to green energy. These include economic instruments such as energy and carbon taxes, but also investments in energy efficiency, including renovating the housing and schools from the “Million Program” (a massive housing programme implemented 1965-1974). Society should support counselling on energy efficiency to both businesses and households. We need planning objectives, simplified regulation and financial support to promote renewable energy sources, develop smart power grids and help more people produce their own heating and electricity.

The world’s dependence on oil, coal and gas has destructive consequences for the environment. It also contributes to instability in the world economy, with big price fluctuations and significant conflict and security risks. If we don’t adjust our economy now, resource scarcity will force us to do so later – at much higher costs for citizens, companies and entire nations.

4.6 TRANSPORTATION

A well-functioning transportation system is necessary for people and goods to move and be moved in a smooth, safe and environmental way. The transportation sector is today Sweden’s largest consumer of fossil fuels and hence we need both structural and technological changes in order to achieve long-term sustainability.

We want to decrease the need for transportation. This can be done through good planning which places housing, workplaces and service in closer proximity of each other, through digital communication, telecommuting and climate-smart logistics systems. The remaining transports needs should be handled using types of transportation, vehicles and fuels that cause little environmental harm, while still maintaining high standard and safety. Investments that are harmful to the climate and increase private and commercial road traffic should be cancelled, in favour of increased railroad investments.

The car as a means of transportation has led to increased mobility for a lot of people. Cars will remain

and serve people's needs for a foreseeable future. The problems of automobile society must be solved. These problems aren't just about accidents and the climate-effect. Cars are often very inefficient for transporting people, especially in large cities. They require much space and a lot of energy. Car traffic also contributes to eutrophication, disturbed ecosystems and tropospheric ozone. Children in particular are harmed by local exhaust fumes in the cities, where traffic also takes up a lot of space and causes severe noise pollution.

Some of these problems can be solved by moving to other types of fuel, but biofuels are and will be a limited resource.

When it comes to passenger traffic in cities and towns, we want society to give priority to extensive public transport systems, combined with more walking and cycling. In cities, this can replace a large part of car traffic. We welcome increased rail traffic. To promote such a development, we want to adapt both regulations and infrastructure to the needs and conditions of the prioritised transport types. Such infrastructure include smooth public transport systems, bike lanes, charging stations, and rental and lending systems for cars and bikes. Car transportation that is still necessary should be powered by renewable fuels.

Different parts of Sweden have different preconditions regarding transportation of people and goods, and the Swedish Green Party acknowledges the need for partly different solutions in the city and in the countryside. In the countryside, the car will still be the main option for local transports, and for that reason we need more fuel-economic cars and a well-developed infrastructure for renewable fuels. We also want to build more pedestrian and cycle roads between small towns in rural areas. Good local services, information technology, carsharing systems and flexible public transport solutions are important complements.

For long-distance passenger transport, railroads are the environmentally friendly option. The various train companies must coordinate prices, ticketing and timetables to become more consumer-friendly. This also applies to the European train companies. We want it to be easy to travel by train

all over Europe. People should be able to trust the train system. Therefore, we must maintain the train tracks and minimise delays.

Air travel is today one of the worst ways to travel from an environmental point of view, measured by emissions per person and kilometre. At the same, there are few alternatives for long-distance trips. For us, it is self-evident that airlines should fully compensate for the detrimental environment effects from their jet fuel by paying fuel and carbon taxes. Airports should not be subsidized with public funds. Throughout Sweden and Europe, we want to build fast train connections offering trips that are cheaper and more comfortable than air travel. Digital solutions can also offer alternatives to many work trips that today go by plane.

Sweden has a long coastline with well-functioning ports that provide good opportunities to improve energy efficiency by combining land and sea transports. Transport of goods should to the greatest extent possible be handled by environment-adjusted and energy-efficient transportation methods. We want to expand and develop rail transport, shipping and multimodal transport terminals in order to decrease road freight transport.

To encourage this development within transportation, many kinds of instruments are needed. The public sector should control and implement the expansion of infrastructure systems. Public transport and railroad networks must be extensively expanded and improved for both passengers and freight, in the entire country. The rail network must be revised and some parts might need to be re-regulated in order to obtain an optimised and viable transportation system. The conditions for operating attractive transportation services in these systems should be good.

Laws and economic instruments should be used for promoting vehicles and fuels that meet the climate and health objectives. The economic instruments should be a combination of measures that make the environmentally friendly options cheaper and the harmful options more expensive.

5. WELFARE

The welfare state should provide people with freedom and safety. We are at our strongest when we know that we have promised to take care of each other when we are at our weakest. That is why we want good public services that provide health and other care services when we need it, as well as safety nets that support those who are sick or out of work. The welfare state is something that we all fund as well as shape.

The history of the growth of the modern welfare state is also a tale of freedom. In the beginning of the 20th century, people fought for democracy, union rights, reasonable work conditions and financial security. Since those days, we carry the insight that real freedom requires a functioning welfare state.

Now the challenge is to build freedom and security for the conditions of today and tomorrow. The safety nets of the welfare state must be inclusive, general and robust. Everybody is entitled to financial security. Public services should be of high quality and accessible for everyone. An egalitarian society is safer for all its inhabitants. Therefore, we want to combat economic inequality. Also those who are unemployed or sick should be able to participate in society.

It is fair that those who are well-off financially contribute more to the common safety system than those with smaller financial margins. Everybody will at some point during their life need welfare services, and it gives a sense of safety to know that healthcare, school, elderly care, child care, paid sick days and other welfare services work well.

5.1 QUALITY OF LIFE

Welfare is not just about safety, but also about quality of life. A prerequisite for our welfare is a healthy environment with clean air and clean water, something that we often take for granted. A good quality of life requires that we can satisfy our basic needs. It can be about living in a place that we like, about affording to buy good and healthy food or about being able to keep healthy and take part in society. For many, welfare includes good public transport and being able to safely go by bike to work. For others, it can be about doing less paid work in order to spend time on voluntary work or hobbies instead.

Emphasising quality of life means focusing on people's needs and desires. The Swedish Green Party wants to lower the working hours to 35 hours a week – as a first step. Caring for people's need for a good environment, community, appreciation, meaningfulness and self-realisation leads to better public health and satisfaction in their everyday lives.

The connection between material living conditions and happiness is strong for people who don't get their basic needs satisfied. But for people who have already achieved good material standard of living, it's often not further improvements in economic conditions and consumption opportunities that give increased happiness and well-being. The development of society must be guided by broader objectives and measures of quality of life rather than traditional economic growth. The Swedish Green Party wants to put such measures at the core of policy making. It can for example be about environment

and sustainability, equal legal rights, or economic redistribution and shared responsibility.

For many in Sweden today, time is what lacks the most. Many have become richer in terms of money, but have at the same time become poorer in terms of time. It should therefore become easier to convert increased prosperity, for example wage increases, into shorter working hours.

Focusing more on quality of life as a policy objective does not contradict the need to protect and improve the material conditions for people who suffer, both in our country and in other countries. These objectives can be connected by a policy for more even distribution of people's consumption opportunities, nationally as well as globally.

5.2 THE COUNTRYSIDE

A well-functioning society is built on welfare, development and high-skilled jobs in the entire country. The rapid urbanisation poses challenges for both the city and the countryside. A living countryside offers attractive living environments with outdoor life and recreation nearby. In a time of transition, the countryside plays a crucial role for the development of a sustainable society, by for example investments in renewable energy and local food production.

One of the Swedish Green Party's fundamental principles is decentralisation, meaning that we want regions and municipalities to have more control and responsibility over decisions that affect them. Decisions should be made as close to the citizens as possible.

Core public services such as police, unemployment offices and social insurance offices should be available in the entire country. National regulation should be suited for small municipalities just as well as for large growth municipalities. A well-functioning tax system should produce equal economic conditions for municipal services in the entire country.

Extended and well-functioning infrastructure is necessary in order for the entire country to

flourish. To be able to live and work also in the countryside, we need more public transport in general, and especially train services. High quality and fairly priced post and telecommunications, including landlines, also need to be available all over Sweden. This should be the government's responsibility. Broadband expansion is of crucial importance for a living countryside.

Civil society plays an important role in making the entire country flourish. Associations and non-profit organisations contribute to socially sustainable societies and increase quality of life among the young and the old.

We want all of Sweden to take part of a rich and vibrant cultural scene and have good access to education. Culture makes the countryside more appealing and attracts inhabitants and tourists. Therefore, we invest in regional cultural institutions such as museums and public libraries. Village schools, folk high schools, regional university colleges and distance education are important for providing the entire country with education opportunities. Working and consuming culture remotely must also be possible, which we achieve by expanding fast broadband nets.

There are tens of thousands of flourishing small businesses across the countryside. Small businesses should pay lower employer charges and have less sick pay responsibility than larger businesses. The government should be able to provide entrepreneurs in the countryside with credit guarantees.

Investments in nature conservation and cultural resources management, as well as the development of modern ecotourism, could generate many green jobs. The energy sector is also of great importance for the countryside. Investments in energy efficiency, expansion of renewable energy sources and new energy technology can contribute to flourishing regional industries. We welcome local ownership, to which end there must be access to capital.

Forestry and agriculture aren't just important for the countryside, but also for the survival of the

entire nation. Therefore, we want to give priority to rural environment and structure, and promote research in environment, agriculture, forestry and organic production. We also want to protect the industries and job opportunities contributed by our national minorities.

Many people in the countryside are dependent on cars, even after public transport options have been expanded. For the countryside, it is of utmost importance that society manages to break the dependence on petrol and diesel. Otherwise, suddenly rising oil prices or reduced availability would strike a blow to the countryside. Some of the new, green fuels will also be produced in the Swedish countryside. As of today, the Swedish countryside already supplies large quantities of our renewable energy, and there are good future opportunities to expand a both profitable and much-needed energy production. Because of all this, the climate transition means both security and job opportunities for the countryside.

5.3 THE CITY

Living and well-functioning cities offer good living environments with short distances and diversity of businesses, jobs, cultural experiences and education. Fast urbanisation poses big challenges for many cities, but also provides good opportunities to develop common, efficient solutions for many people to live together.

To meet the future and the environmental challenges, we need extensive investments in the energy efficiency of existing buildings, public transport, climate adjustment and better management of ecosystem services.

City planning should be carried out from a holistic approach, focusing on the long-term wellbeing of people and the environment. People should be given the opportunity to influence the development of the city in a simple and constructive way. Construction of new housing should be regarded as a tool to decrease segregation; as of today, new housing is often built in a way that increases the gaps between different parts of the city.

The public environment surrounding streets should facilitate meetings and cultural experiences. The green city is a human, environmental and vibrant city with quality of life and equal rights for all.

The planning of new areas should primarily be on land already developed. Construction should be done in a way that is space-effective, resource-efficient and climate-smart. Housing should be built where public transport is well developed, and should be mixed with workplaces, recreation areas, sports, service, culture, pre-schools and schools.

We need a vision of zero-emission cities in which technological systems support sustainable lifestyles. There must be a balance between production and consumption of energy, food and goods. Urban farming and local, small-scale electricity generation are important parts in this. City roofs are a great untapped resource.

Proximity and mixing are two important principles when building a city. A city structure in which work, housing and commerce are mixed within the same areas gives a vibrant and safe urban environment, and might also reduce the need for transports. In many Swedish cities and communities, there is a development potential in urban infill, especially where it can make already existing rail infrastructure more useful. Green spaces are important for both the environment and people's health, physically and mentally. Green spaces must therefore be a natural part of the city.

Good urban planning makes it easier for city residents to make environmentally sustainable choices. People should be able to easily move around on foot and by bike, and have access to a well-developed public transport network. Living in the city should mean having the freedom not to need a car. Waste management should be handled as environmentally friendly as possible, and reusing and recycling should be promoted.

To protect people, buildings and important public functions from the floods that persistent torrential rain may cause, urban areas need more greenery and open water.

5.4 SUBURBS AND “MILLION PROGRAMS”

We know that every urban centre in every city, no matter if it is far from the city centre or not, have the potential to provide a good living environment, safe living conditions and quality of life. Today, this is not always the case. Some neighbourhoods, especially some of those built during the so-called Million Program, have been allowed to degenerate and local services have been lost.

This has led to negative and destructive attitudes towards several districts and suburbs, which have added to the segregation. We want to address this by good welfare services, a sensible housing policy where we keep stocks of rental apartments and mix forms of tenure, and through investments.

The Million Program is facing a large climate renovation. This should be seen as a social investment, and should not be paid solely through rent increases, since many in these areas have low incomes. As we make this investment, we should also offer pathways to vocational training and work, and make sure to build these areas in a way that creates venues for people to meet, adults as well as children. The residents should not only be involved in the renovation, but to a large extent plan and execute it.

The economies of the cities' peripheral areas are often based on small businesses. Efforts to make it cheaper and easier to start businesses and hire employees are therefore efforts that benefit suburbs.

We want to promote clubs and associations and self-organisation in every city centre. We can do so by providing access to culture, libraries and premises for meetings and get-togethers. We also believe that Sweden needs more folk high schools, not least in the Million Program areas.

There shouldn't be any areas in Sweden where people feel that they have to move somewhere else in order to have a fair chance. Everyone should have the right to thrive and evolve where they live.

5.5 HEALTHCARE

Sweden should have a health-promoting, egalitarian and modern healthcare system. Care should be of high quality, accessible, distributed according to need and publicly funded. Dental care should have the same conditions as other healthcare, and should therefore be part of the publicly financed care and subject to the same high-cost protection.

Today, access to healthcare is unevenly distributed. For us in the Swedish Green Party, it is self-evident that a gender and egalitarian perspective should permeate all healthcare. Obtaining the same level of healthcare, regardless of gender or socioeconomic status, is self-evident. Today, women often need to wait longer than men for important treatments, and have less access to particularly expensive treatments. We could achieve greater equality by for example greater outreach in primary care. Primary care is the foundation of the healthcare system and should be developed. Unregistered immigrants and asylum seekers should be entitled to healthcare. Healthcare should be completely free of charge for children up to 18 years.

Patient empowerment and participation are increasingly important in healthcare. Patients should have the right to inspect and influence their own medical records. Digital services within the health sector should be developed. We want healthcare to have a holistic view of the patient and take into account physical and mental symptoms, as well as the patient's life situation. The objective should always be to primarily treat the cause of the disease and not the symptoms.

Those who are seriously ill should get care expediently. The Healthcare Guarantee (a rule stating that certain care must be provided within a certain time) should therefore be based on medical needs, and payments within the system should be based on each patient's burden of care, in order for healthy people not to be given priority over the chronically ill. Everybody has the right to individually customised care with a care plan interdisciplinary designed from various perspectives. We want to see

a developed palliative care and appropriate pain relief, in an environment that is good for both the patient and his or her relatives.

Sweden's population is getting older. Demographic trends place new demands on healthcare and will increase the need for increased coordination between different types of care, such as primary care and care for the elderly.

We believe that long-term investments in public health with focus on people's living conditions is just as important as healthcare to promote good health. Hence we want a national public health program and support municipalities and counties in their health-promoting efforts. Queues in healthcare must be shorter, and accessibility must be better.

The Swedish Green Party also wants to continue the progress towards alternatives to medication, for example exercise prescription and psychotherapy, since drug consumption today is a problem for both patient safety and the environment. It is also important to encourage an international perspective in issues of health and pharmaceuticals, such as antibiotic resistance.

People with addiction or substance abuse problems are, just as everyone else in Sweden, entitled to the best healthcare possible. There must be good access to treatment against addiction and substance abuse in the entire country. Policies on substance abuse should be based on the methods that science has shown to be the most effective in alleviating the harmful effects of addiction and substance abuse – both for society and the individual. Preventive efforts should be encouraged. Everyone who needs to should be offered effective treatment in order to stop his or her abuse.

One basic principle of healthcare is that no one should be harmed. Healthcare providers must continue to strengthen patient security. Healthcare employees should, like in every other publicly funded operation, enjoy the freedom to disclose information and protection of persons providing information, so that they can safely make known any deficiencies in the care. We want to improve the

opportunities for nurses, psychologists, physical therapists and other licensed professionals to assume more responsibility for their patients, in order to use their expertise more efficiently. When receiving healthcare, everyone who needs it should be guaranteed a qualified interpreter. Patient boards and patient associations should play a larger role in the improvement of healthcare.

Mental illness is increasing, leading to great suffering. The Swedish Green Party recognises the need for Sweden to work in a far more objective-orientated way when it comes to health-promoting and disease-preventing efforts. For children and adolescents, an active cooperation between pupils' health, parents, primary care, youth clinics and psychiatry is needed. Unlike physical illnesses, mental illness is often stigmatised and many people are too embarrassed to seek treatment. This should be combated by trying to change attitudes, and by offering high quality treatment at an early stage. Psychiatric and psychological expertise in primary care should be strong and quality-assured.

Adequate sex education in school, accessible youth clinics and access to contraceptives should ensure good sexual and reproductive health. Globally, Sweden should work actively to promote family planning, sexual rights and reproductive health. The Swedish Green Party supports women's right to abortion.

We welcome that people assume more responsibility for their own healthcare and want the healthcare system to be responsive to patients' own ideas. It is important that treating physicians have the complete picture of a patient's illness and previous treatment in order to provide patient-safe care. In order to increase the knowledge and understanding of complementary medicine, healthcare professionals within the public health system should have access to education about complementary therapy. We want to strengthen the patient's rights and invest more in health-promoting care. However, the publicly funded healthcare system should not encourage or support a patient in using methods that lack scientific underpinnings.

Treatment provided by voluntary organisations should be put to use and be encouraged. Counties should be able to sign direct agreements with non-profit organisations. Patient associations and other non-profit organisations should be viewed as assets and be supported in a broad sense. Individual patients also have the knowledge, experiences and abilities that can be used for planning, implementing and evaluating healthcare.

5.6 HOUSING

Everyone has the right to accommodation. In Sweden, access to housing is unevenly distributed between people and across the country. Some municipalities have a housing shortage, whereas others have a surplus. But the housing shortage issue is not just about being short of a certain number of homes in a certain place. It is equally important that there are homes for everyone, regardless of socioeconomic status or any disabilities. The Swedish Green Party's housing policy should combat segregation and promote equal rights.

A well-functioning housing policy must combine measures on both the national and the local level. We need to ensure that houses are constructed that are in demand by young people, students, the elderly, large families and low-income earners.

For us in the Swedish Green Party, housing policy is about building society. By building with resource-efficient technology, we can create modern and attractive neighbourhoods. We want to make better use of the land by building wide and tall on surfaces that are currently under-utilised. We want to promote diversity, which reduces the risk of segregation and creates a more vibrant community. Cultural and natural values should be protected and highlighted.

Different types of housing should be mixed and available in all areas. The rapid conversion of rental apartments into condominiums in the major cities has caused big problems. New models for setting tenancy rents have also made it difficult for people to find a home. Therefore, it is especially important

to protect the stock of rental apartments, as well as a regulation of the rental market.

Conditions for renovating older residential areas must be good. The interior environment demands more attention, especially indoors in homes and workplaces. A neighbourhood is more than just houses to live in; it is also important with a creative outdoor environment where there is room to play, socialise and recreate. It is especially important to renovate that the homes and schools of the Million Programs.

The existing housing stock can be utilised much more efficiently if we make it easier to move and safer to sub-let. The construction market must work in a satisfactory way. We want to promote competition by giving small and medium-sized construction companies the opportunity to participate. The rules of the market must be clear and equal for all, and they must aim for long term sustainability. Investments in public transport is one important way to make more areas attractive to have a home and a life in.

5.7 FINANCIAL SECURITY

Everyone is entitled to some basic financial security. The social safety nets must be improved so that no one falls through. Our vision is that everyone who lacks an income should be guaranteed financial support enough to live on, regardless of what income that person had before, and regardless of the reason for the current lack of income. The financial security systems redistribute income between different periods in a person's life. It works when you for various reasons, such as disability, illness or unemployment, for a shorter or longer period cannot support yourself. But a safety system that gives support to everyone, also gives everyone the courage to do new things throughout life. It also increases the motivation to contribute to society and feel responsibility for our common challenges.

For families with children, general grants such as child allowance and parental leave pay, as well as conditional grants such as housing allowance and child support are needed. It is important that any

needs assessment does not become intrusive. For the Swedish Green Party, it is particularly important to protect children in financially disadvantaged families.

The study aid system should enable all young people to pursue higher studies regardless of their parents' financial situation. It should also promote life-long learning for older students. The social safety systems must work also for students when they get ill or have children. Students should be able to study without having to work at the same time.

We care for a good public pension. In recent decades, life expectancy has increased significantly. For most people, a long life also means more years in good health, and also more years when one is able to, and wants to, remain in work. However, this is not always the case; there are large differences in the labour market. In many professions, the actual retirement age doesn't even reach 65 years, and employees experience deteriorated health even before retirement. Policies for humane work conditions are therefore of economic importance. The retirement age should be more flexible, and the right to keep one's job past 67 years age should be strengthened. The regulations in today's pension system, such as the adjustments of the pension levels, the premium pension and the tax level, need to be analysed to make sure that the pension system is long-term sustainable and promotes gender and income equality. Pension funds should be invested ethically and sustainably.

We want a combined "work life security", a comprehensive general insurance that covers both sickness and unemployment, with harmonized conditions as far as possible. To avoid individuals with a complex set of problems getting shovelled around between various agencies, this overall insurance should be administered by one authority according to the principle "one door in".

All those who are willing to work and contribute to their own livelihood as far as possible should be part of a "work life security". We should actively support the person's job possibilities, for example by rehabilitation and education measures. This insurance should have a broad scope, be easy to

qualify for and, when applicable, also include students and entrepreneurs.

People who due to serious illness or disability cannot provide for themselves, for a long time or their entire life, should be entitled to both financial support and personal assistance. We care for the system for the provision of personal assistance, which enables the disabled to have a more accessible life. Assessment of someone's need for assistance must not be intrusive, and the system needs a long-term safe solution for its funding.

5.8 DESIGNING WELFARE STATE SERVICES

Public services within health, school and care should be offered to everyone, on equal terms and based on needs. When distributing public funds to different areas, the variation in needs should be taken into account, for example by socioeconomic weighting. When designing welfare state services, resources should be used in a way that gives high quality services and satisfies strict social, ecological, and economic requirements. Welfare state services should not be handled like just any market. We are not consumers in our relation to the welfare state; we are citizens.

In recent years, people have gotten to influence welfare state services more through various choice reforms. The Swedish Green Party acknowledges that the commercialisation of welfare state services has reduced the diversity the reforms intended to increase. We are concerned about the problems in the schools and health facilities where profit motives have led to cuts that were detrimental to pupils and patients. We are also concerned about real quality development being hampered in favour of increased focus on easily measurable performance and data points that can be converted into money through the compensation systems. We therefore want to get rid of the commercially oriented actors from the welfare state sector and instead promote those that are lead more by ideas than by profits. What is important is the quality of the services, that tax-payer money is used in the

activity it was intended for and that those who work within the welfare sector have a good work environment. And we always support user influence on welfare state services, no matter whether these are privately or publicly administered.

Regardless of who runs them, all publicly funded welfare state services must be of high quality. Quality should be highly valued when services are procured. Procurement should also include demands regarding the environment, social conditions and the work environment. Quality should be monitored continuously using various tools. All services should be subject to a public agency that should have the power to halt activities that do not measure up. The protection of persons providing information and the principle of public access to public records should apply to all publicly funded welfare services.

We want to enhance people's abilities to truly choose welfare that suits them, but also give everyone the opportunity to contribute with their own initiatives. Involving citizens in the design and delivery of welfare state services leads to better results, higher quality, increased self esteem on the individual level and lower costs on the public level. Real choice requires accurate and accessible information about the choices at hand. It also requires the option not to choose: those who do not make an active choice should still be provided an adequate, high-quality option.

The primary motif for all providers of welfare state services should be to run a high-quality operation, driven by a social commitment. The

purpose of the organisation should not be to make a profit and pay dividends, as should be evidenced by statutes or articles of association. Any possible profit should be re-invested in the activities. Arrangements that include excessive indebtedness or unreasonably high interest payments, possibly through so-called tax havens, should be stopped. The organisations' finances should be transparent. Environmental and quality aspects must weigh much heavier in public procurement than it does today.

When both private and public organisations grow too large, they might get too centralised, which could hold back creativity and job satisfaction. Therefore, we want to work in favour of decentralisation, and strengthen the influence of employees in their workplace. Teaching hospitals should remain under public administration.

People's commitment and voluntary efforts within what is usually called the informal sector, the voluntary sector, or civil society, have a large, in some areas very large, significance for our common welfare. We should have policies that in various ways acknowledge, support and encourage such efforts. We want to promote social entrepreneurship, other alternative forms of operation, and non-profit organisations. The voluntary sector is largely self-organised and can, mainly on the local level, support and contribute to increased stability in different initiatives. Public institutions should actively listen to ideas from the voluntary sector and offer organisational support to volunteer centres.

6. THE WORLD

People have always striven to govern their own lives and societies. In the modern era, people have liberated themselves from the shackles of colonialism; development cooperation has helped liberating countries from apartheid and racial oppression; popular uprisings have sent dictators on the run. In Sweden, universal suffrage was introduced less than a hundred years ago.

Many people have raised their standard of living. Prosperity is spreading, life expectancy is increasing and child mortality is going down. In material terms, many of those in what was previously called the developing world are now rising from poverty. At the same time, we are facing new challenges in the form of over-exploited natural resources and threats to the environment. Starvation and oppression are still a reality for many people. Most of the world's poor and the most vulnerable are women and children, and it's also women and children who suffer the most from natural disasters or armed conflicts.

The Green movement always strives to add a global perspective on politics. The Swedish Green Party strives for a world in balance where solidarity and respect for human rights are combined with sustainable development and climate justice across the globe. Within the Green movement, there is widespread support for the idea that we have to strengthen international cooperation regarding the environment, peace and international development, while at the same time finding ways to make the global economy more democratic.

Our most important task is to manage our common natural resources in a right and just way. As

biodiversity is reduced and climate change aggravated, people in poverty will suffer the most. The struggle for natural resources is already a cause of war and other violent conflicts. The mission of the Green movement is to find ways to make more people in the world get their share of prosperity, while at the same time meeting climate and environmental challenges.

6.1 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The principle of sharing resources and environmental space in a fair way should be the foundation for the work to ensure a world of peace and prosperity. The world's resources are currently distributed and used in an unjust manner. As we keep moving forward into the 21st century, Sweden and other rich countries must reduce their ecological footprints. The Earth's poor must be allowed a larger share of resources and environmental space in order to lift their countries to decent standards without having to repeat the rich countries' mistakes.

The Swedish Green Party wants to see a strong international collaboration with the United Nations as the central agent for peace and human rights. We work for a UN that has enough power to fulfil its mission. The rich and powerful countries' dominance of the UN system must be broken, and the economically weak countries must be given a stronger voice. Decision-making within the UN should be reformed, particularly the Security Council, which needs to be composed differently.

The system with some countries having the right to veto must be reconsidered. Furthermore, we want to increase transparency and give NGOs greater weight in the UN system.

6.2 THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Swedish Green Party advocates decentralisation. This means that we want decisions to be made as close as possible to those affected by the decisions. Power should be exercised by those who are affected by it. This conviction has given us a fundamental scepticism towards centralised control and decisions that move power further away from people.

We are enthusiastic supporters of international cooperation. We want to see Europe as a part of a world of democracies in which people move freely across borders and where people and countries trade and cooperate with each other. We are in favour of intergovernmental cooperation where countries participate voluntarily in decisions. On issues of global nature, there is also a strong case for supranational decision-making, for example when it comes to cross-border issues like the environment and the protection of basic human rights. Today, the EU is an important venue for this in our part of the world.

We Greens are actively working to change and improve EU policies. Radical changes are needed in order to make the Union's policies for the environment and resource management fit within the limits of nature. The unchecked global movements of capital must be controlled. Human rights, peaceful conflict resolution and conflict prevention policies must be at the forefront of EU aid and foreign policy. We do not accept the militarisation of the EU. EU foreign policy is too focused on narrow European interests and should instead be oriented towards poverty reduction, democracy building and environmental work. Sweden has gone too far in adapting its foreign policy to that of the large EU countries; the common foreign policy must not become an excuse for Swedish passivity in the UN General Assembly.

We are working to counteract the EU's democratic deficit. Today, the EU is governing many policy areas which it ought not to, areas that would be better handled regionally, nationally or locally. Popular influence is too limited and the accountability must be strengthened. Citizens should be guaranteed transparency and be able to influence decisions. The principle of public access to official records and the protection of persons providing information according to the Swedish model should also be applied in the EU. The degree of influence should not be determined by financial resources, and lobbying must therefore be regulated and the power of economic interests should be balanced by active social movements and increased opportunities to scrutinise and influence all EU institutions.

Member states must be allowed to go ahead with tougher legislation to protect the environment and public health, even when such legislation is in violation of the EU's internal market. Trade barriers against poor countries must be abolished in order for trade policy to become an effective tool for poor countries to develop their economies based on their own conditions. However, they should not be tempted to over-exploit their own natural resources. We want trade policy to incorporate tough environmental and social requirements in order to contribute to improvements far beyond the EU borders. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) should not contribute to price dumping in the markets of developing countries.

EU must pursue a more active environmental policy. We welcome supranational decisions when it comes to environmental protection, such as managing cross-border pollution, the protection of endangered species and biotopes, and minimum rules and taxes to protect the environment and reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases.

EU must assume its part of the responsibility for global development by taking the lead in bringing about an international climate agreement that lowers greenhouse gases to the level needed to stabilise mean temperatures at a safe level.

The EU budget is often used inefficiently, and spent on the wrong things. It is not reasonable to have the EU spend large sums on agriculture dependent on fossil fuels and chemicals, nuclear power, and highways in financially strong parts of the union, while organic farming, sustainable infrastructure, and renewable energy get little or nothing. The budget must not be used to fund activities harmful to the climate.

The Council of Europe is the principal body for protecting and promoting human rights in Europe. The EU has been a very positive force in the development of applicant countries, by for example combining membership with reform requirements. At the same time, we now witness increasing discrimination within the EU, especially against Jews, Muslims and Roma. EU must obtain better tools to deal with violations of human rights within the union, and the sanction system needs to be developed.

EU refugee policy has built high walls towards the rest of the world. Every year, people die trying to cross EU boundaries. The policies must be changed. We want to give people a real chance to flee to the EU and have their asylum claims seriously examined. No one is illegal. We need more alternatives for legal immigration to the union. Refugees should not be sent around within the union, but instead have a serious examination of their asylum claims in the country where they currently are.

The political inability to handle the economic crisis and the growing inequalities, aggravated by the ill-considered prestige project that is the common currency, has during the 2010s led to new tensions between people and countries in Europe. The development is distressing. We take a clear and active stance against racism and fascism.

Our decentralist worldview makes us an EU-critical party, and therefore we work to change the union. The Swedish Green Party opposes the development towards a European federation. We support the idea of EU evolving into a more flexible cooperation in which every member state can choose which parts to participate in, within reasonable limits. At the same

time, it is important that no group of countries form a joint nation or a very far-reaching cooperation within the EU framework that effectively forces other countries to follow suit. The question of the future of the EU involves complex trade-offs, and it is important that all progress is made with respect, to make it all work. We want member state parliaments to have real ability to check that the EU is not making decisions beyond its competency. There should be less centralised control and more freedom for the individual countries. Sweden should be independent towards the EMU and not introduce the euro. We believe that every country in Europe should be allowed to join the EU as long as the country satisfies basic requirements regarding democracy and human rights.

6.3 NORDIC COOPERATION

We want to safeguard the unique cooperation we have with our closest neighbours, the Nordic countries. The Swedish Green Party should be a driving force in tearing down the last border restrictions also in the Nordic countries, improve mutual Scandinavian language comprehension, improve national minority rights and improve the common labour market. The Swedish Green Party will work for ambitious and coordinated climate efforts in the Nordic countries, by setting the green agenda.

6.4 PEACE AND SECURITY

Many of the world's conflicts grow out of poverty, lack of democracy and human rights, and from the struggle for limited resources. The surrounding world is changing. Some of the threats that have increased and appeared are the climate threat, water and energy shortages, terrorism and threats against IT and other communication systems. When environmental, geopolitical and economic interests clash, we need new international regulations. We need policies that stay one step ahead and prevent disasters from occurring.

Today's society relies too heavily on large-scale and high-tech infrastructure, which is vulnerable to

unforeseen shocks. Therefore, we promote the creation of more alternative and local solutions as complements, for a more resilient society. Such systems are better built on simple technology. Sweden as a country, as well as local communities, must be more self-sufficient and less vulnerable. Climate change is likely to cripple global food supply. Sweden should be a leader in the international efforts towards ensuring a globally secure food supply.

Rising mean temperatures, increased precipitation and more frequent extreme weather, such as torrential rains and heat waves, compel us to start working on climate adaptation to make society less vulnerable. For example, we need to prevent and mitigate flooding. We must coordinate climate adaptation, and we need to start now.

Sustainable peace requires social and living conditions that are generally perceived as fair and acceptable. It is therefore an important success factor to let those affected participate in the peace process. Female participation in peace processes, peace negotiations and reconciliation work is crucial. Women are too often shut out and cannot contribute with their experiences, despite the fact that women and children are especially vulnerable during armed conflict. Examples have shown that when women are involved and commit to peace, it becomes more stable and long-term sustainable.

We want policies that put human security before territorial security. Peace is not just the goal; it is also the way there. Humanity has developed a broad range of tools to handle conflicts, and to fight injustice through non-violence. Such initiatives should be supported and developed, for example by preventive diplomacy and peace-building efforts by NGOs. However, military action can be justified in cases where preventive measures have failed, and when it is the only means available to prevent further violations of human rights and suffering. This is on the condition that it is carried out in self-defence or under UN mandate.

The Swedish Green Party defends our non-alignment and therefore opposes joining NATO. Sweden's security policy should include active

participation in building international cooperation on issues such as disarmament, non-violence treaties and demilitarised zones. We should also be prepared domestically to meet any threats that our defence policy identifies. Our military capacity should be ready for international operations, and should maintain knowledge for the eventuality that new threats are directed towards Sweden in the future. Participation in military defence operations should be voluntary.

In order to meet the threats to our society, we need to broaden and develop the national defence policy to better match the crises of the future. No nation can achieve security by threats, or peace by war. Sweden should take initiatives to international disarmament and move ahead and disarm, based on updated and politically established threat assessments. We should focus on investing in preventive and peace-building operations, and in actors working with peaceful conflict management.

Sweden should contribute to global disarmament. One goal of the Swedish Green Party is therefore to phase out our arms exports. The leasing of Swedish soil to military exercises by NATO or other foreign military forces should also be discontinued. Export of arms and other military equipment to dictatorships, countries engaged in armed conflict, or where severe and massive violations of human rights occur, should be abolished. Nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction should be dismantled.

Men's violence against women is a structural and a global problem. Rape is also becoming an increasingly common weapon in armed conflict. In peace efforts and international operations it is important to carry the knowledge and resources to ensure women's safety.

6.5 GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND JUSTICE

The Swedish Green Party puts international law and human rights at the core. Domestic and foreign policy must be based on the same values. The rights

we work for in our part of the world are universal. Sharing one single Earth with limited resources makes us dependent on each other and gives us a common responsibility. This requires a levelling and a more just distribution of the Earth's resources. Poor people's economic, social and cultural rights should be respected.

The fluctuations in the world economy are hurting poor countries' struggle for development. Sweden should therefore work to make the global economy more stable. Tax evasion should be stopped. Trade conditions should be designed based on the ultimate goal of distributing resources more evenly. The World Trade Organisation (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank should be reformed and made more democratic. Export subsidies from rich countries, such as agricultural output from the EU, should stop.

Sweden must demand that imported goods are manufactured with concern for the environment, human rights and work conditions for those employed in the production countries. Organisations working for fair trade and developing control systems for monitoring this should be supported. The Swedish Green Party sees free and unmonitored internet access as an important means empower people in all countries.

The Swedish Green Party's policy for international development is one of solidarity. That means that we want development cooperation and debt relief to be characterised by respect and sensitivity for the receiving countries' needs. The countries' and local communities' own culture and democratic decisions must be the basis of the development, not the donor country's need to promote its own export industry. In many cases, voluntary aid between people and NGOs is more effective than support straight to governments. Organisations working for democracy, human rights, gender equality and sustainable development should be given support through Swedish development cooperation.

Sweden's development policy must be coherent; we cannot support environmentally destructive operations while promoting sustainable development. Swedish peace operations are also

not credible when we export arms to dictatorships and poor countries. The goal of a just and sustainable global development must always be given priority over short-term economic interests. Strong government agencies and institutions are necessary for development to get going. Aid directly to the government budget might therefore sometimes be the best way to support poor people's development.

Sweden is, from a global perspective, a very rich country. It is therefore reasonable that at least one percent of Sweden's gross national income (GNI) is used for international aid. On top of that, Sweden should bring powerful climate investments in order to pay for the "climate debt" that Sweden with its large, historical emissions of greenhouse gases, has caused.

6.6 MIGRATION

The Swedish Green Party has a vision of a world without borders, where all people can move, but no one is forced to flee. We don't believe in countries' right to choose their citizens; we believe in people's right to choose where they want to live. We should greet people with opportunities, not with walls. Everyone should be able to live, work and realise their dreams where they want to. Freedom of movement should be a human right.

People have always moved, and will always move. Some people go abroad to study or work, some because they have found love. Some move back, some don't. The move is often not voluntary, but the result of conflict, persecution or other events. We already see today how people are forced to escape because of extreme draught, flooding and adverse weather conditions.

We want Sweden to be a country open for labour immigration. The opportunity to go from one country to the next in order to work is a basic right and beneficial for both the sending and the recipient country. At the same time, open rules require that national governments and international cooperation combat discrimination, poor working conditions and unscrupulous employers. Labour migrants

should have just as good conditions on the labour market as everyone else.

When applications for resident permit are processed, factors such as relation and health should be given more weight than today. It should be easier to apply for a resident permit from Sweden, rather than having to go back to the old home country, which in some cases can be life-threatening. Sweden should be a sanctuary from persecution, torture and war.

Compassion and solidarity are universal. Human rights should apply to everyone, and refugees should be guaranteed a legally secure asylum process in Sweden. Those who are denied asylum should not be detained, but primarily be offered help to return voluntarily. Forced deportations should be used extremely restrictively.

People who come to Sweden should quickly get in touch with education, healthcare and the labour market. Previous experiences, such as foreign education, work experience or language skills, should be credited also in Sweden. The state and the municipalities have a joint responsibility for giving new people in Sweden a good start in the country. All municipalities should receive refugees, equally and generously.

The lives of unregistered immigrants in Sweden are paved with fear, anxiety and uncertainty about the

future. Many people live their lives without access to basic social functions, rights and securities. Life as an unregistered immigrant in Sweden must never be a life outside the protection of the law.

Sweden is today marked by a racism that primarily hurts those at the margins of society. But in the long run, everyone falls prey to limiting prejudgments, stereotypes and norms. Xenophobia and racism are incompatible with a society where everyone can live and work on equal terms. Our struggle against physical boundaries goes hand in hand with the struggle against social boundaries that limit people's freedom.

We are proud to be the most open party when it comes to migration. In a Europe in which xenophobic forces are on the rise, we want Sweden to lead the efforts towards a world with no borders. We want a society where no one is forced to live as an unregistered immigrant, a Sweden where no family is divided, and a world where everyone can move freely.

The Swedish Green Party wants everyone to be welcome in a society built on a foundation of openness, solidarity and compassion. Being open to the world and all humans' differences is a precondition for a Green society. We are convinced that a new Sweden is possible; a Sweden in which we are united by our common future, rather than by ethnicity, birthplace or religious affiliation.

7. THE PATHFINDERS

We in the Swedish Green Party have assumed dual roles. We are both pathfinders and a political party in the traditional sense. We are both ahead of our time and in the midst of it. That is a great challenge. We cannot be so far ahead that we lose contact with those behind us; the path must not close between us.

At the same time, we are aware that we have no time to lose. We dare to be one step ahead. We are the pathfinder in Swedish politics – an alternative for faith in the future and optimism.

The world is full of complex relationships and interdependencies. It would be naïve to think that we understand our entire world. Therefore, we should not consider ourselves as rulers of nature. We cannot know how much or how little we have understood.

We find our strength in the insight that every individual action affects our world and our future. This gives us great opportunities, but also great responsibilities. Failure to respect the conditions of nature will in the long run hurt all inhabitants on Earth – including ourselves.

It takes knowledge, patience and persistence to change ingrained thought patterns. Time for reflection must not drown in an ocean of superficial information.

The Green path is not about “Us vs. Them”. It is also not about selfishness. It is about seeing the big picture. This is why we seek cooperation and understanding in order to realise our Green vision. The Swedish Green Party is no end in itself, but the parliamentary wing of the Green movement. Prestige must not prevent us from occasionally stopping ourselves to reflect on and question our own ideas, structures and methods.

Below every little rock on our planet there is teeming life. We are all parts of something infinitely greater. This realisation evokes humility, but also action. Maybe it is in the moments when we are able to enjoy life and nature that we are reminded of what we are fighting for.

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