Swedbank
Sustainability Policy
Background
Our purpose is to promote a sound and sustainable financial situation for the many households and businesses. We shall be profitable and sustainable, to enable people, business and society to grow. Our long-term success as a bank is inextricably linked to helping to meet the social and environmental challenges of our times resulting in better long-term financial sustainability. Together with our customers we make a difference for society.

We are committed to support both the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This twofold commitment will guide our work and impact towards 2030 and beyond. In 2019 Swedbank also became one of the 130 Founding Signatories to the UN’s Principles for Responsible Banking; a shared commitment to align our business strategy to the Paris Agreement and contribute to the fulfillment of the SDGs. Our business operations have global impact through our investments, credits, payments, and supply chain.

Purpose
The Sustainability Policy is the proactive partner of the Code of Conduct. The purpose of the policy is to provide a governing platform for Swedbank Group to run a sustainable bank. This means to define what sustainability is for Swedbank and to formulate Swedbank’s role in driving sustainability integration in everything we do.

The Sustainability policy provides the overall platform and supplementary policies provide thematic details such as: Human Rights, Environment, Anti-Corruption, and Diversity and Inclusion.

Definition
Our definition of sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Swedbank includes financial, social, environmental, and ethical aspects within the definition of Sustainability. This implies respect for and protection of the environment, human rights, labour rights, and business ethics.
**Swedbank's role**

Sustainability is core for Swedbank. Our purpose is to promote a sound and sustainable financial situation for the many households and businesses. A sustainable business is the only way forward to uphold our vision as to enable people, businesses and society to grow. Our role in running a sustainable bank is to create positive impact through our business and to steer sustainable finance by inspiring people and businesses to make smart sustainable choices.

We acknowledge the need for more partnerships across sectors to ensure that we accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

**Swedbank’s role in the four sustainability aspects:**

**Social sustainability**

Is to contribute to society’s development through all of Swedbank’s business operations by promoting human rights, fair working conditions, diversity and gender equality, and social engagement.

We have a responsibility to respect human rights and to act with due diligence to avoid infringing on the rights of others in all our business activities and operations. Fair working conditions for our employees are both a responsibility and a competitive advantage for attracting employees. Diversity and gender equality are preconditions in Swedbank’s agenda of being an inclusive bank – caring for, and being open to, all customers and employees regardless of their economic situation, age, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual identity, or disability. This inclusive agenda has enabled us to create leading bank services.

We engage ourselves in social issues such as education in the field of private economy, youth employment, entrepreneurship, and to increase the digital understanding of the entire population with a view to support a society that holds together. While the projects differ in purpose, extent, and geography, the overarching goal remains the same: to, through our heritage as the savings bank for the many people and corporates, be a good corporate citizen who strengthens society including its individual members.

**Environmental sustainability**

Is to contribute to a sustainable use of earth’s finite resources and to lower greenhouse gas emissions through all our businesses. The financial sector has a crucial role in directing financing to activities that support the transition to a low carbon economy.

This means for example to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy sources. By promoting the provision of environmentally friendly products and solutions to customers, Swedbank minimizes the risks coupled with activities that are not in line with the Paris Agreement.

We minimize the environmental impact of our own operations by reducing business travel, paper and electricity consumption, waste management and use of office equipment and supplies. Hence it also follows that we increasingly digitalize our work methods, such as using alternative meeting solutions.

**Ethical sustainability**

Is to apply Swedbank’s Code of Conduct, Values and Culture as starting points throughout our decision-making and behavior. Swedbank remains a value-driven bank for the many people and companies, and high standards in business ethics are the basis for the confidence placed in Swedbank and for Swedbank’s reputation.

Swedbank’s policies and guidelines in sensitive areas such as anti-corruption, tax, and anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing, support employees’ business conduct in line with Swedbank’s values and position.

**Financial sustainability**

Is to promote a sustainable economy by strengthening the bank’s and our customers’ long-term competitiveness. Social, environmental, and ethical sustainability are prerequisites for Swedbank’s overarching aim of contributing to financial sustainability. Long-term economic resilience for people, society, and businesses is at the core.

We are a profitable, well-capitalized bank with a clear low-risk profile. Swedbank is part of the financial infrastructure that is key to a well-functioning society. Through careful management of sustainability related risks and opportunities in our businesses, we will build a better future together with our customers.

To establish long-term sustainable financial value, all sustainability aspects need to be integrated in our business decisions, operations, and business developments throughout Swedbank Group.
**International commitments**

With basis in our Values and Code of Conduct, the sustainability work is guided by international commitments and agreements, environmental scientific findings, and business-related frameworks. We recognize the importance of participating in and supporting international commitments that enable businesses to operate in a more responsible way. We participate in various international engagement initiatives on key sustainability issues and are committed to the following, but will assess others going forward:

- Climate Action 100+
- Equator Principles
- EU Package on Sustainable Finance
- ICC’s Business Charter for Sustainable Development
- Montreal Carbon Pledge
- Nordic CEOs for a Sustainable Future
- Science Based Targets Initiative
- Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures
- UN Environmental Programme Finance
- UN Global Compact
- UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
- UN Principles for Responsible Banking
- UN Principles for Responsible Investments
- UN Women’s Empowerment Principles

**Reporting and transparency**

We do our utmost to have an ongoing and transparent dialogue with all our stakeholders, to act according to our Values and to be Open, Simple and Caring when interacting to enable our stakeholders to understand our work, challenges and ambitions.

We are committed to be transparent with our sustainability targets and performance including continuous reporting on our progress in external and internal channels.