

# **GUIDELINES RELATING TO THE OVERALL GOALS AND STRATEGY OF SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES IN THE HANDELSBANKEN GROUP**

established by the Group Chief Executive on 25 May 2022

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Handelsbanken's business model facilitates responsible banking operations where the Bank, by developing and offering customers sustainable products and services within our core operations of financing, investment and advisory services, can work to maximise the Bank's positive impact, minimise our negative impact and in so doing promote a more sustainable society. Sustainability is a broad concept, which includes environmental, economic and social aspects such as good corporate governance, and which affects all the Bank's operations.

The Central Board of Handelsbanken has adopted a policy for sustainability in the Handelsbanken Group, supplemented by guidelines from the Group Chief Executive in a number of key areas. In addition, to highlight the central themes of the strategic direction of the Handelsbanken Group's sustainability activities, the following specific objectives have been formulated.

## **1. Overall goals**

- **Best in the sector:** The Bank is to be – and be perceived as – the most sustainable bank among its peer competitors.
- **Climate neutrality:** The Bank is to achieve net zero emissions of greenhouse gases as soon as possible, and by 2040 at the latest. This covers lending, leasing and investments, as well as Handelsbanken's own operations<sup>1</sup>, such as energy consumption and business travel.

## **2. Business strategy goals**

- **Responsible financing:** By 2025, 20 per cent of the Bank's financing volume is to consist of green financing, social financing or financing that contributes to a sustainable, measurable transition by the borrower.
- **Responsible investment:** Investment portfolios must be in line with the climate goals of the Paris Agreement in terms of net zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2040 and increasing the mutual funds' contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sub-goals include reducing our emission intensity by 50 per cent and doubling investments in climate-related solutions by 2030, as well as a 30 per cent increase to the share of sustainable investment by 2025, and annual increases in positive outcomes of engagement activities.

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<sup>1</sup> i.e. operations that are not linked to the Bank's business operations.

- Advisory services for gender-equal savings: By 2023 at the latest, through business development and training, the Bank will have created quantifiable conditions for gender-equal savings and thus a reduced wealth gap between men and women.

### **3. Responsibilities, follow-up and reporting**

The Head of Group Sustainability (CH) has the function responsibility for sustainability activities in the Handelsbanken Group, including drawing up proposals for sustainability goals. Sustainability activities at the Bank are in keeping with the Bank's decentralised work method, whereby all parts of the Bank's operations are to contribute to the fulfilment of long-term goals.

The Head of CH must carry out follow-up and report to the Group Chief Executive and the Central Board on the Bank's overall sustainability activities, including performance in relation to the sustainability goals that have been adopted. The Bank also follows up and reports on performance in the sustainability area within the framework of the Annual and Sustainability Report.