Policy for sustainability

Adopted by the Board on 10 June 2019

1. Introduction and purpose
The Central Board of Svenska Handelsbanken AB (Handelsbanken) has adopted a Policy for sustainability in the Handelsbanken Group. Handelsbanken Liv’s (the Company’s) sustainability policy is based on the Group policy but has been adapted to the specific operations conducted in the Company. The Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Handelsbanken.

The purpose of this policy is to establish the focus for the Company’s work in the area of sustainability. It concerns the Company’s approach in important matters relating to its relationship with customers, and its conduct as an employer and an institution in society. The Company must strive to adopt long-term responsibility for creating security for our stakeholders, for example customers and employees.

2. Background
Responsible actions are essential to long-term value creation within the Company. Long-term customer relationships, a low level of risk-taking and cost-awareness are cornerstones of Handelsbanken’s business culture. They form the basis of successful insurance operations being run in a responsible, sustainable manner. The Company’s success is dependent on the confidence of customers, employees, owners, public authorities and other stakeholders that the Company is acting in a responsible manner. This confidence is based on ethical conduct and taking responsibility for financial, social and environmental development that is sustainable in the long term. In order for this confidence to be maintained, there must be transparency in the Company’s sustainability activities, and the Company must work to ensure that there is active dialogue and communication with stakeholders concerning this work.

3. Orientation
The Company aims to integrate financial, social and environmental sustainability into all its insurance operations, which means that the Company is to run financially sound, sustainable operations and to encourage and contribute to sustainable development. This applies to day-to-day operations as well as, for example, to business development, investment decisions and purchase decisions. In this way, risks and costs can be reduced, while new business opportunities can be identified, employees motivated, and confidence in the Company maintained.

The Company shall safeguard human rights and employees’ rights, and not be complicit in breaches of these. Gender equality, diversity and an inclusive corporate culture should be a fundamental part of the Company’s values. The Company shall endeavour to minimise negative effects on the environment and climate. Nor shall the Company accept corruption, money laundering or terrorist financing, and conflicts of interest must be managed. The Company’s actions regarding tax-related matters must be responsible, correct and transparent.

International initiatives and guidelines with the common aim of encouraging and facilitating sustainable development and corporate sustainability must be key concepts in the Company’s sustainability work.

4. Risk
The Company shall maintain good internal control in order to prevent and manage sustainability risks in its business operations. The Company shall fulfil all requirements imposed in internal policies and regulatory frameworks. Risks which may arise as a result of inadequate handling of matters relating to corporate social responsibility are, for example: reputation risk, operational risk, and risk of negative influence on others.

5. Organisation and responsibilities
This policy must be implemented equally at all companies in the insurance group, given the nature and scope of the operations. It is the responsibility of all company employees to comply with this policy, and the responsibility of all managers to ensure compliance with the policy. Each employee that is subject to this policy is obliged to inform one of the central functions and the sustainability officer when discovering any deviations from this policy or other facts which may be of importance to the central functions’ areas of responsibility.

6. Reporting
The Company must measure, report and follow up the sustainability activities. The Company’s Chief Executive reports annually to the Company’s Board. These reports are also published annually in Handelsbanken’s sustainability report, the Company’s annual report, and regularly on the Handelsbanken website.

7. Related processes and policy documents
The following policy documents are linked to this policy:
- Policy for sustainability in the Handelsbanken Group,
- Policy for responsible investment,
- Risk policy, and
- The Chief Executive’s established guidelines on sustainability at any given time.