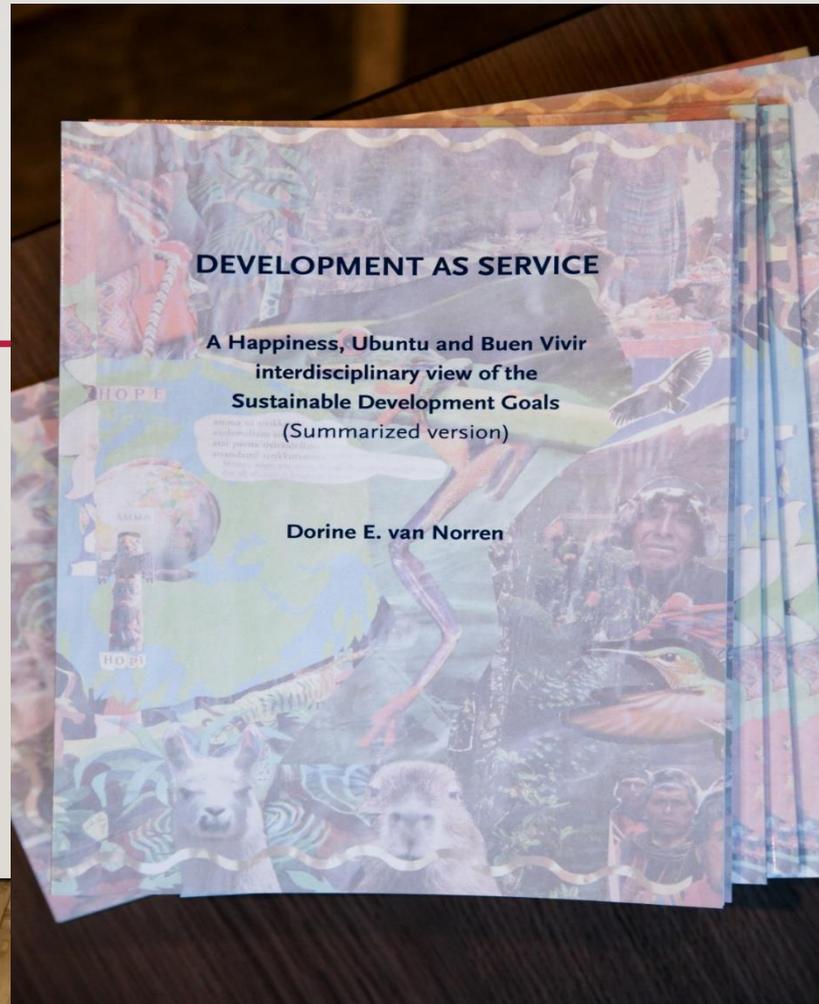# GNH, UBUNTU, BUEN VIVIR

& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UNDERLYING MODERNISM ARE THE BELIEF IN:

- sovereignty of humans over their environment,

- individual sovereignty,

- freedom (rights rather than duties),

- self-interest,

- belief in the market, as leading to collective welfare (a la Adam Smith),

- emphasis on private property,

- rewards based on merit,

- materialism,

- the quantification of value, and

- the instrumentalisation of labor (for the market and production process).

- European traditions of truth established by reason (Descartes) and empirical knowledge (Hume) and non-belief in magic,

- positivist worldviews whereby the source of knowledge is based in logic or sensory experience, rejecting metaphysical origins.

UBUNTU- I AM BECAUSE WE ARE

Community

- Past
- Present
- future generations

Collectivity

Compassion

Gross National Happiness

- 4 pillars
- Culture
- Socio-economic
- Nature
- Good governance

Harmony
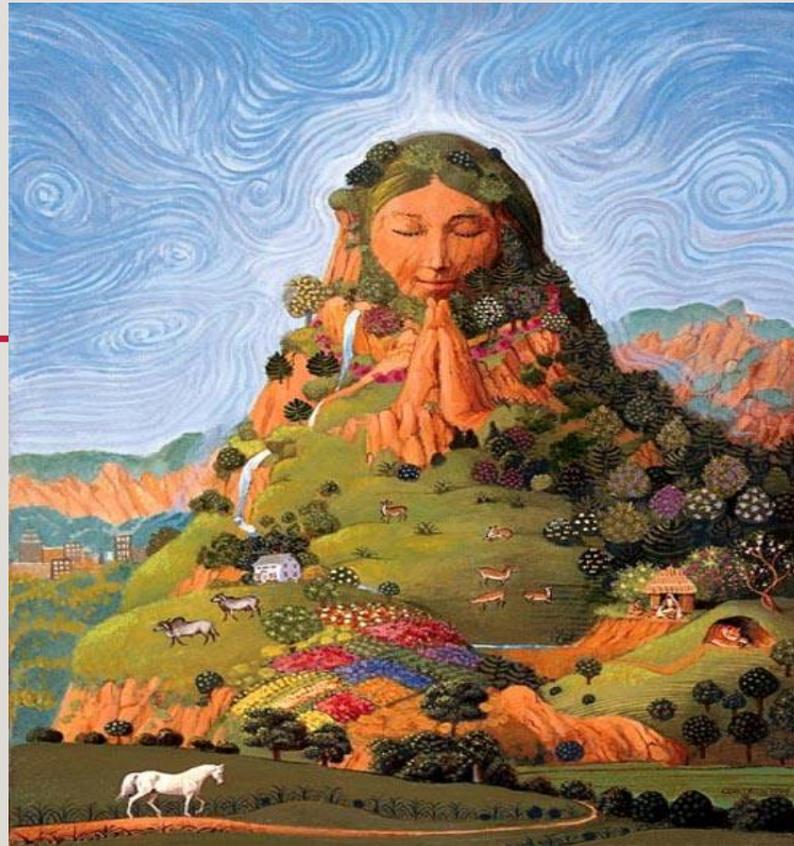With self, compassion with others, guardianship of nature

Middle Path: moderation
Balancing spiritual and material wellbeing

GNH

Psychological Wellbeing
- Life satisfaction
- Positive emotions
- Negative emotions
- Spirituality

Health
- Mental health
- Self reported health status
- Healthy days
- Disability

Living Standards
- Assets
- Housing
- Household per capita income

Time Use
- Work
- Sleep

Ecological Diversity and Resilience
- Ecological Issues
- Responsibility towards environment
- Wildlife damage (Rural)
- Urbanization issues

Education
- Literacy
- Schooling
- Knowledge
- Value

Community Vitality
- Donations (time & money)
- Community relationship
- Family
- Safety

Good Governance
- Gov't performance
- Fundamental rights
- Services
- Political Participation

Cultural Diversity and Resilience
- Speak native Language
- Cultural Participation
- Artistic Skills
- Driglam Namzha

BUEN VIVIR, SUMAK KAWSAY
GOOD LIVING

- Biocentric, mother earth
- Humans as equal to other beings
- Harmony with Nature
- Rights to Nature
- Cyclic

Perspective on	SDGs	Happiness	Ubuntu	Buen Vivir
SDGs	• Universalist: Accepted by all UN member states with consultations of civil society and business	• Upbeat: GNH is ahead, goes beyond and incorporates SDGs	• Pragmatist: Please the global North while doing your own thing locally	• Polemic: SDGs are called mental masturbation • Intellectual and pachamamist Buen Vivir against SDGs
Values	• Leave no one behind • Goals are integrated, interrelated, indivisible • Human rights based approach • 5P's: (peace, prosperity, planet, people, partnership)	• Respect all beings • 'Buddha field': inter-dependence includes metaphysical • Non-duality/Middle path based on Buddhism 8thfold path of self-development & compassion • 4 pillars of GNH: 1st culture, identity & spirituality, 2nd socio-economic policies, 3rd harmony with nature, 4th good governance and decentralization	• Life is mutual aid • 'Seriti'(field) - interdependence includes metaphysical • Humaneness in action/motion and collective human rights • People First (Batho Pele) where people includes past, present and future generations of communities	• Let mother earth lead • 'Chakana' - interde-pendence includes metaphysical=IRCR* • Biocentric rights of nature approach • Good living in harmony with nature, Plurinationality, Interculturality *Integrality, relationality complementarity, reciprocity
Development	Sustainable growth =development/progress	Inner peace & harmony with nature/others (incorporating sustainable development)	Human relations including with past/future generations which are connected to earth/nature as part of community (I am because we are) (replacing sustainable development)	Biocentric intersubjective relations (good living) (alternative to and against sustainable development)
Goals vs Process	• Goal oriented result based management (with elements of process thinking) • Vertical (upward linear progress) Doing what is good for yourself (and the other)	• Goal + Process • Vertical (progress in developing self) /Horizontal (harmony) • Contemplating self and other	• Process/ reciprocal • Horizontal • Feeling engagement with the other	• Process/Horizontal/ Reciprocal/Cyclical/ Spiral (Sumak Kawsay)* • Being in harmony with universe * (contradiction with government Buen Vivir goal setting)
Targets Indicators	Knowing is Measuring & Reasoning Simple, quantifiable, analytical	Knowing is controlling Mind (Life is learning; overcome duality; Balance Yin (Feminine) and Yang (Masculine)	Knowing is Feeling (Empathic thinking from heart); Balance warrior mind (analytic) and mother mind (feeling)	Knowing is connecting to Earth (Feeling/knowing earth); Complementarity of Feminine/Masculine

Priority Goals	All 17	Climate change (13), protection of nature (esp. 15) and peaceful mind/mental health/wellbeing (3) & General balance: of socio-economic rights, good governance, culture, nature (4 pillars of GNH)	First 5 social goals and inclusive societies (16)* and partnership/means of implementation (17) & general focus on socio-economic rights, people first and restorative justice (absent in goals) *in contradiction to the official South African position	No goal especially not goal 8 (growth) as system is not biocentric; support goals as intermediairy step to prioritize nature as our mother/father on which we depend & General focus on nature rights and socio economic rights
Missing (inter alia)	Many goals did not make it to the final shortlist because of the efforts to come to a consensus	Community vitality Culture/heritage/identity Spirituality/nature of reality Interdependence	Community/collective values; diversity; wholeness	Community including nature; Plurinationality; Interculturality; Identity in nature/earth Spiritual nature-culture
Leader-ship style	King: the one who achieves individual power first and then helps the people (Global Governance systems based on patriarchal power system lead by G7/G8) combined with notions of Servant-leadership enabling others to perform better	Boddhisatva leader shepherding (following behind) his people with wisdom/compassion	Boatman: Leader and followers empower each other (going in front taking the others with)	Seven generation leadership council (collective leadership)