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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN  
Cabinet Secretariat  
Office of Cabinet Affairs and Strategic Coordination

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## Protocol for Policy Formulation

### 1. Definition of Public Policy

Public policy is a set of guiding principles and decisions that outline the government’s approach to addressing specific issues or set of issues and leveraging opportunities for public benefit. Policies are generally broad and long-term, providing a framework within which specific actions can be taken. Policies set the “what” and the “why” but often leave the “how” to be determined.

### 2. Origin of Policy Proposals

Proposals to formulate/revise public policies in Bhutan can originate from the *Lhengye Zhungtshog* (Cabinet), and Sectors.

### 3. Scope of the Protocol for Policy Formulation

This protocol shall apply to formulation or revision, approval and adoption of public policies irrespective of their origin with exception to those policies formulated under the Royal Command or due to National Exigencies.

### 4. Policy Formulation Protocol

- 4.1 For purposes of proper planning the conception and formulation of policies will be undertaken periodically and revision of policies can be undertaken as and when required.
- 4.2 All Policies/concept notes originating from the Sectors must be routed through their respective Policy and Planning Division (PPDs), who shall be the focal points for policy coordination.
- 4.3 All Policy concept notes shall be submitted to the Office of Cabinet Affairs and Strategic Coordination (OCASC) for review.
- 4.4 The OCASC will submit policy Concept Note and recommendations to the Cabinet for approval.
- 4.5 The Cabinet will approve/ reject the Policy concept notes and accordingly forward its comments to the proponent through the OCASC.

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4.6 The formulation/ revision of any policy will be undertaken in two stages

*Stage One:* Policy conception stage

*Stage Two:* Policy formulation and approval stage

4.7 Proponents desiring to formulate or revise a Policy shall do so only after the approval of the Policy concept note by the Cabinet.

## 5. Policy Formulation/Revision

### 5.1 Stage 1: Policy Conception Stage

- 5.1.1 The proposal to formulate/revise any Policy will begin with the preparation of concept note maximum five pages as per the format prescribed in Annexure A, by the proponent.
- 5.1.2 The concept note will be submitted to the OCASC by the proponent.
- 5.1.3 The OCASC will submit the concept note to the Cabinet for approval. The submission will include recommendations/ views/ comments on the concept note.
- 5.1.4 The Cabinet may either approve/ reject the concept note or seek further clarifications from the proponent or OCASC based on which approval/ rejection can be made.
- 5.1.5 Approval/ rejection of the concept note will be conveyed to the proponent through OCASC.
- 5.1.6 Upon approval of the concept note (with changes as directed by the Cabinet) the proponent may commence formulation/ revision of the policy.

### 5.2 Stage 2: Policy Formulation and Approval Stage

- 5.2.1 The proponent shall commence formulation/ revision of the draft policy after receiving approval on the concept note from the Cabinet.
- 5.2.2 While formulating/ revising the draft Policy, proponents should ensure that as a minimum:
  - i. all policy alternatives have been considered;





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- ii. all cross-cutting issues such as gender, environment, climate change, disaster and poverty, and others are integrated within the policy;
- iii. all relevant stakeholders who may be affected by the policy are consulted; and
- iv. there is no conflict between the proposed policy and other existing policies, laws and regulations.

5.2.3 After formulation/ revision, the concerned proponent shall submit the proposed draft Policy to the OCASC along with Policy Protocol Report as per the format specified in *Annexure B*

5.2.4 The draft policy shall also be made available for comments on a public domain (web-based or other means) and shared with relevant Research Institutes and key stakeholders including those mainstreaming cross-cutting issues.

5.2.5 With the formal submission of the above documents to the OCASC, the relevant division of the OCASC shall review the draft Policy and provide feedback/ comments to the proponent. When required, the proponent will make a presentation of the draft policy to the OCASC.

5.2.6 The proponent can either incorporate the comments/ feedback or seek further clarification from the OCASC. If required, bilateral discussion can be held between the proponent, key stakeholders and OCASC.

5.2.7 Upon incorporation of the comments agreed on between the sector and OCASC, the revised draft policy shall be subjected to the Gross National Happiness (GNH) Policy Screening Tool<sup>1</sup> (*Annexure C*) by the proponent sector and OCASC (as two separate exercises).

5.2.8 OCASC shall establish the GNH Screening Policy Guideline (*Annexure D*), outlining mechanisms for applying the GNH Policy Screening Tool. The summarized processes are outlined below:

<sup>1</sup> The *GNH Policy Screening Tool* will be updated periodically in consultation with the Center for Bhutanese GNH Studies.



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- i. Prior to screening of a draft Policy, a bilateral session shall be held between the proponent sector and the OCASC on the relevance of certain GNH indicators against the Policy in question.
- ii. The screening shall be undertaken individually by those participating in the screening exercise (The revised draft policy and Screening Tool to be shared a few days prior to the meeting).
- iii. A diverse mix of stakeholders shall participate, numbering to at least 10-15 participants.
- iv. The sectoral focal points for gender, environment, climate change, disaster and poverty and other cross-cutting issues (if there are such focal points appointed) and other external key stakeholders shall be involved in the screening exercise.

5.2.9 The proponent will submit their individual and consolidated GNH Screening results to the OCASC. All rationales and mitigation measures need to be duly completed.

5.2.10 The OCASC will also conduct a GNH Screening of the Policy.

5.2.11 The revised draft Policy document and the screening results shall be submitted to the Cabinet through the OCASC. The presentation of the draft Policy to the Cabinet will be done by the proponent, the OCASC will present both the GNH Screening results and additional comments, if any

5.2.12 The Cabinet shall either endorse the draft Policy as submitted, recommend further review which may be through the institutionalisation of timebound taskforce, accord endorsement subject to revisions, or provide additional directives.

5.2.13 If instituted, the taskforce shall present its recommendations to the Cabinet for review.

5.2.14 If endorsed, the Cabinet shall issue a directive to the proponent to revise the draft Policy based on the recommendation of the taskforce.





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- 5.2.15 The proponent shall revise draft Policy according to the directives received from the Cabinet and submit a copy of the revised draft Policy to the OCASC to ensure all directives of Cabinet have been incorporated.
- 5.2.16 The revised draft Policy shall be submitted to the Cabinet for approval through the OCASC.
- 5.2.17 The Cabinet shall convey approval of the draft Policy or issues further directives to the proponent through OCASC.
- 5.2.18 If there are major revisions to the draft policy, the Cabinet can subject the draft Policy to the following before according approval:
- The re-application of the entire Policy Protocol or
  - An additional review by the OCASC or
  - A re-application of the GNH Policy Screening Tool.
- 5.2.19 The approved policy shall be implemented by the proponent/ agency identified within the Policy.

## 6. Policy Adoption, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

### 6.1 Policy Adoption and Implementation

- 6.1.1 The proponent/ agency shall develop and submit Policy Action Plan for implementation of the policy to the OCASC.
- 6.1.2 The Policy Action Plan should identify realistic activities to be implemented by responsible agencies, along with an indicative budget and timeframe. The proposed activities should be categorised into immediate, medium-term, and long-term actions.
- 6.1.3 The OCASC shall seek endorsement of the Policy Action Plan from the Cabinet.
- 6.1.4 The proponent agency shall implement the approved policy based on the endorsed Policy Action Plan.







**6.2 Policy Monitoring and Evaluation**

- 6.2.1 Based on the endorsed Policy Action Plan, implementation shall be monitored according to the Policy Monitoring Framework.
- 6.2.2 The OCASC shall carry out post-adoption/ex-post evaluation of Policies. The findings of the evaluations shall be used to refine Policies.

**7. Policy Repeal Process**

- 7.1 If a policy becomes obsolete or irrelevant, the responsible sector or agency shall formally request the Cabinet to repeal it.
- 7.2 The OCASC shall review the relevance of the policy and submit its recommendation to the Cabinet for approval.
- 7.3 The Cabinet will either approve or reject the repeal request.
- 7.4 If the repeal request is approved, the Cabinet shall convey its approval to the responsible sector or agency through the OCASC.
- 7.5 If the repeal request is rejected, the Cabinet may direct the responsible sector or agency to amend and update the policy according to the established protocol to ensure its continued relevance.





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## Annexures

### Annexure A: Format for Submission of Policy Concept Note

The formulation of any policy will begin with approval of the Concept Note by the Cabinet. The primary purpose of the concept note is to provide convincing arguments on the existence of pertinent issues that need to be resolved and to justify the need for a new policy/ revision of an existing policy. The note should be succinct and understandable. As a minimum the concept note should clearly state the following:

#### 1. Context and Background

This section should mention the reason/ rationale for proposing a new policy or revising an existing policy.

- Is the proposed policy an outcome of government directives, if so which directive?
- What are the major issues the proposed new policy/ policy revision intends to address? What are the root causes of the issues in question?
- What are the implications if the issues are not addressed?

#### 2. Critique of current policy options and approaches:

Briefly explain the shortcomings/ failing of the current approaches (policy/ act/ regulation/ others) or the limitations posed by the absence of the policy in addressing the issue(s).

#### 3. Policy Recommendations

- Briefly explain how the proposed new policy/ policy revision will address the shortcomings of the current approaches/ regulations/ policy or the limitations posed by the absence of the policy.
- Briefly explain the major costs and benefits that may arise out of the policy in terms of resources (physical, financial, human, and others) and processes that will result with the proposed new policy/ policy revision.



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**4. Integration of GNH and cross cutting issues**

- What are the opportunities and challenges pertaining to GNH, gender, environment, climate change, disaster and poverty, and other cross-cutting issues that may arise from the proposed new policy/ policy revision?
- Briefly describe how the policy will make use of the opportunities or mitigate the challenges that may arise with respect to GNH, gender, environment, climate change, disaster and poverty, and other cross-cutting issues by adopting this policy

**5. Process and indicative timeline**

- Provide details on the process and indicative timeline that will be followed developing the policy including likely need/ use of Technical Assistance (TA). If TA is to be used, the ToR must be shared with OCASC for comments.
- Briefly provide details on policies/ acts/ regulations that may conflict with the proposed new policy/ policy revision and explain how the conflict will be resolved.
- List of stakeholders who will be consulted.

**6. Major impediments or risks foreseen in the development of the Policy**



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## Annexure B: Format for Policy Protocol Report

### 1. Title Page

- a. Title of the Policy
- b. Name and contact details of the organization submitting the issue
- c. Name and contact details of the focal point
- d. Date of submission

### 2. Background and Context

- a. Current situation: Provide a brief overview of major issues, their root causes, and implications if not addressed.
- b. Current approaches and options: Provide a brief overview of the existing approaches (rules/ regulations/ acts/ policy) that currently exist.
- c. Critique of the current approaches/ options: Provide a brief overview of the shortcomings or limitations of the current options or approaches in addressing the issue.
- d. Provide brief information of Prior Government Decisions/ Orders. Kindly mention References, etc.

### 3. Policy Recommendations

- a. Provide a brief overview on how the proposed policy will address the issues in question.
- b. Briefly explain the major costs and benefits that may arise out of the policy in terms of resources (physical, financial, human, and others) and processes that will result with the proposed new policy/ policy revision.

### 4. Research and Findings

- a. Mention any studies, appraisals, etc. carried out on issues related to the proposed Policy along with key findings and recommendations.
- b. Attach copies of the studies and reports referred.





**5. Integration of GNH and Other Cross-Cutting Issues**

- a. What are the opportunities and challenges pertaining to GNH, gender, environment, climate change, disaster and poverty, and other cross-cutting issues that may arise from the proposed new policy/ policy revision?
- b. Briefly describe how the policy will make use of the opportunities or mitigate the challenges that may arise with respect to GNH, gender, environment, climate change, disaster and poverty, and other cross-cutting issues by adopting this policy.

**6. Other Implications**

- a. State any other implications (legislative, financial, social, administrative, political, institutional, etc.)

**7. Consultations**

- a. Consultation Process with other stakeholders/ organisations – Provide a list of the stakeholders and organisations consulted.
- b. State controversial issues, key findings and recommendations from the consultation process.

**8. Attach a copy of the proposed policy**



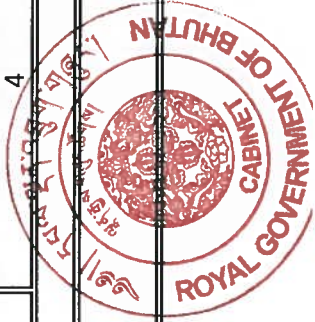
Annexure C: GNH Policy Screening Tool

| Guide to Scoring |   |
|------------------|---|
| Score            | Reason  |
| 1                | A score of 1 should be awarded if the policy is perceived to <i>negatively impact</i> the variable.   |
| 2                | A score of two should be awarded if it is <i>uncertain</i> as to how the policy might impact the variable.  |
| 3                | A score of 3 is awarded if it is certain that the policy will have <i>no negative impact</i> on the variable, even if it is <i>uncertain</i> whether the policy will have any <i>positive impacts</i> . In case the policy <i>does not have any linkage</i> to a variable, then a score of 3 should be awarded. |
| 4                | A score of 4 is awarded if the policy is perceived to have a <i>positive impact</i> on the variable   |
| ***              | <i>Please note that rationales will have to be provided for all scores awarded. In the event a variable scores below 3, then alternatives or mitigation measure will also have to be recommended.</i>   |



**Domain: Living Standard**

|   |  |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <b>1. Equity</b>  | Will negatively impact the equity of income distribution | Do not know the differential effects on equity of income distribution | Will not have any negative effects on the equity of income distribution | Will positively impact equity of income distribution |
| Score   | 1  | 2   | 3   | 4  |
| Score Awarded   | (Enter Score Here)                                       |   |   |  |
| Rationale for awarding score                                    |  |   |   |  |
| Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below |  |   |   |  |
| <b>2. Economic Security</b>                                     | Will decrease economic security                          | Do not know the differential effects on economic security             | Will not decrease economic security                                     | Will increase economic security                      |
| Score   | 1  | 2   | 3   | 4  |
| Score Awarded   | (Enter Score Here)                                       |   |   |  |
| Rationale for awarding score                                    |  |   |   |  |
| Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below |  |   |   |  |
| <b>3. Material Well-being</b>                                   | Will decrease material well-being                        | Do not know the differential effects on material well-being           | Will not decrease material well-being                                   | Will increase material well-being                    |
| Score   | 1  | 2   | 3   | 4  |
| Score Awarded   | (Enter Score Here)                                       |   |   |  |
| Rationale for awarding score                                    |  |   |   |  |



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|   |  |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below |  |  |  |   |
| <b>4.Engagement in Productive Activities</b>                    | Will decrease opportunities to engage in productive activities | Do not know the differential effects on opportunities to engage in productive activities | Will not decrease opportunities to engage in productive activities | Will increase opportunities to engage in in productive activities |
| Score   | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4   |
| Score Awarded   | (Enter Score Here)   |  |  |   |
| Rationale for awarding score                                    |  |  |  |   |
| Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below |  |  |  |   |
|   | Variable Score   |  |  |   |
| 1   | Equity   | (Enter Score Here)   |  |   |
| 2   | Economic Security  | (Enter Score Here)   |  |   |
| 3   | Material Well Being  | (Enter Score Here)   |  |   |
| 4   | Engagement in Productive Activities                            | (Enter Score Here)   |  |   |
|   | Domain Score (Living Standard)                                 | 0  |  |   |



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**Domain: Good Governance**

|  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| <b>5. Participation in Decision Making</b> | Will decrease opportunities to participate in decision making opportunities | Do not know the differential effects on opportunities to participate in decision making | Will not have any negative effects on opportunities to participate in decision making | Will increase opportunities to participate in decision making |
| Score                                      | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| Score Awarded                              | (Enter Score Here)  |   |   |   |

Rationale for awarding score

Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below

|                           |   |   |   |   |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| <b>6. Anti-Corruption</b> | Will increase opportunities to engage in corruption | Do not know the differential effects on opportunities to engage in corruption | Will not increase opportunities to engage in corruption | Will decrease opportunities to engage in corruption |
| Score                     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| Score Awarded             | (Enter Score Here)                                  |   |   |   |

Rationale for awarding score

Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below

|                          |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| <b>7. Legal Recourse</b> | Will decrease the opportunities to seek legal recourse | Do not know the differential effects on the opportunities to seek legal recourse | Will not have any negative effects on opportunities to seek legal recourse | Will increase opportunities to seek legal recourse |
| Score                    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| Score Awarded            | (Enter Score Here)                                     |  |  |  |

Rationale for awarding score



|   |   |  |   |   |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below</b></p> |   |  |   |   |
| <p><b>8. Rights</b></p>   | <p>Will decrease protection of individual rights<br/>1</p>                              | <p>Do not know the effects on protection of individual rights<br/>2</p>                                  | <p>Will not decrease protection of individual rights<br/>3</p>                                  | <p>Will increase protection of individual rights<br/>4</p>                                  |
| <p>Score Awarded</p>  | (Enter Score Here)  |  |   |   |
| <p>Rationale for awarding score</p>   |   |  |   |   |
| <p><b>Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below</b></p> |   |  |   |   |
| <p><b>9. Gender</b></p>   | <p>Will be detrimental to the advancement of gender equality<br/>1</p>                  | <p>Do not know the effects on gender equality<br/>2</p>  | <p>Will not negatively affect gender equality<br/>3</p>   | <p>Will advance gender equality<br/>4</p>   |
| <p>Score Awarded</p>  | (Enter Score Here)  |  |   |   |
| <p>Rationale for awarding score</p>   |   |  |   |   |
| <p><b>Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below</b></p> |   |  |   |   |
| <p><b>10. Transparency</b></p>  | <p>Will decrease transparency standards on government policies and programmes<br/>1</p> | <p>Do not know the effects on the transparency standards on government programmes and policies<br/>2</p> | <p>Will not decrease the transparency standards on government policies and programmes<br/>3</p> | <p>Will increase the transparency standards on government policies and programmes<br/>4</p> |
| <p>Score Awarded</p>  | (Enter Score Here)  |  |   |   |
| <p>Rationale for awarding score</p>   |   |  |   |   |

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| Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below |                                |                    |  |  |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
|   | Variable Score                 |                    |  |  |
| 1   | Decision Making Opportunity    | (Enter Score Here) |  |  |
| 2   | Anti-Corruption                | (Enter Score Here) |  |  |
| 3   | Legal Recourse                 | (Enter Score Here) |  |  |
| 4   | Rights                         | (Enter Score Here) |  |  |
| 5   | Gender Equality                | (Enter Score Here) |  |  |
| 6   | Transparency                   | (Enter Score Here) |  |  |
|   | Domain Score (Good Governance) | 0                  |  |  |



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**Domain: Education**

| 11. Skills and Learning   | Will decrease opportunities to enhance skills and learning | Do not know the effects on the opportunities to enhance skill and learning | Will not decrease opportunities to enhance skills and learning | Will create/increase opportunities to enhance skills and learning |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| Score   | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4   |
| Score Awarded   | (Enter Score Here)   |  |  |   |
| Rationale for awarding score                                    |  |  |  |   |
| Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below |  |  |  |   |
|   |  |  |  |   |
|   |  |  |  |   |
| 1   |  |  |  |   |
|   |  |  |  |   |
| <b>Variable score</b>   |  |  |  |   |
| Skills and Learning   | (Enter Score Here)   |  |  |   |
| Domain Score (Education)  | 0  |  |  |   |



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**Domain:Health**

| 12. Public Health   | Will increase public health risks | Do not know the effects on public health risks | Will not increase public health risks | Will decrease public health risks |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Score   | 1                                 | 2  | 3                                     | 4                                 |
| Score Awarded   | (Enter Score Here)                |  |                                       |                                   |
| Rationale for awarding score                                    |                                   |  |                                       |                                   |
| Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below |                                   |  |                                       |                                   |
| Variable score  |                                   |  |                                       |                                   |
| 1 Public Health   |                                   | (Enter Score Here)                             |                                       |                                   |
| Domain Score (Health)   |                                   |  | 0                                     |                                   |

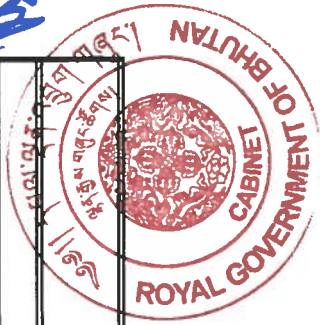


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### Domain: Ecology

|   |  |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| <b>13. Water and Air Pollution</b>                              | Will lead to increase in water and air pollution       | Do not know the differential effects on water and air pollution                  | Will not increase water and air pollution                  | Will lead to decrease in water and air pollution      |
| Score   | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4   |
| Score Awarded   | (Enter Score Here)                                     |  |  |   |
| Rationale for awarding score                                    |  |  |  |   |
| Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below |  |  |  |   |
| <b>14. Land Degradation</b>                                     | Will increase land degradation                         | Do not know the differential effects on land degradation                         | Will not increase land degradation                         | Will decrease land degradation                        |
| Score   | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4   |
| Score Awarded   | (Enter Score Here)                                     |  |  |   |
| Rationale for awarding score                                    |  |  |  |   |
| Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below |  |  |  |   |
| <b>15. Bio-Diversity Health</b>                                 | Will diminish the health of plant and animal diversity | Do not know the differential effects on the health of plant and animal diversity | Will not diminish the health of plant and animal diversity | Will improve the health of plant and animal diversity |
| Score   | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4   |
| Score Awarded   | (Enter Score Here)                                     |  |  |   |
| Rationale for awarding score                                    |  |  |  |   |



|   |  |
|---|--|
| Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below |  |
|   | Variable Score                             |
| 1   | Water Pollution<br>(Enter Score Here)      |
| 2   | Land Degradation<br>(Enter Score Here)     |
| 3   | Bio diversity Health<br>(Enter Score Here) |
|   | Domain Score (Ecology)<br>0                |



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## Domain: Community Vitality

| 16. Social Support  | Will decrease the available social support              | Do not know the effects on the available social support                       | Will not decrease available social support                  | Will increase the available social support              |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Score   | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| Score Awarded   | (Enter Score Here)                                      |   |   |   |
| Rationale for awarding score                                    |   |   |   |   |
| Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below |   |   |   |   |
| 17. Family Interaction  | Will decrease the time available for family interaction | Do not know the differential effects on time available for family interaction | Will not decrease the time available for family interaction | Will increase the time available for family interaction |
| Score   | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| Score Awarded   | (Enter Score Here)                                      |   |   |   |
| Rationale for awarding score                                    |   |   |   |   |
| Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Variable Score</b>   |   |   |   |   |
| 1 Social Support  | (Enter Score Here)                                      |   |   |   |
| 2 Family  | (Enter Score Here)                                      |   |   |   |
| Domain Score (Community Vitality)                               | 0   |   |   |   |



**Domain: Time Use and Balance**

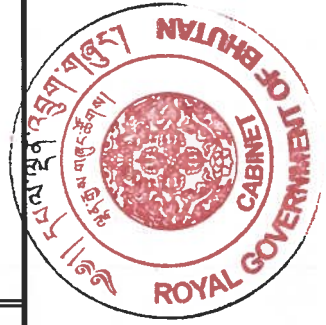
| 18. Leisure   | Will decrease opportunities for leisure | Do not know the differential effects on the opportunities for leisure | Will not decrease the opportunities for leisure | Will increase the opportunities for leisure |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Score   | 1                                       | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| Score Awarded   | (Enter Score Here)                      |   |   |   |
| Rationale for awarding score                                    |   |   |   |   |
| Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below |   |   |   |   |
| Variable Score  |   |   |   |   |
| 1 Leisure   | (Enter Score Here)                      |   |   |   |
| Domain Score ( Time use and Balance)                            | 0                                       |   |   |   |



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**Domain: Culture**

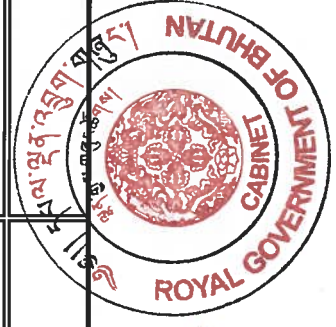
|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>19. Culture</b>  | Will decrease opportunities to participate in cultural traditions and practices | Do not know the differential effects on the opportunities to participate in cultural traditions and practices | Will not decrease the opportunities to participate in cultural traditions and practices | Will increase the opportunities to participate in cultural traditions and practices |
| Score   | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| Score Awarded   | (Enter Score Here)  |   |   |   |
| Rationale for awarding score                                    |   |   |   |   |
| Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below |   |   |   |   |
| <b>20. Values</b>   | Will undermine Bhutanese Values   | Do not know the differential effects on Bhutanese Values  | Will not weaken Bhutanese Values  | Will promote Bhutanese Values   |
| Score   | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| Score Awarded   | (Enter Score Here)  |   |   |   |
| Rationale for awarding score                                    |   |   |   |   |
| Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below |   |   |   |   |
| Variable Score  |   |   |   |   |
| 1 Culture   | (Enter Score Here)  |   |   |   |
| 2 Values  | (Enter Score Here)  |   |   |   |
| Domain Score (Culture)  | 0   |   |   |   |





## Domain: Psychological Wellbeing

| 21. Spiritual Pursuits  | Will decrease opportunities to engage in spiritual pursuits   | Do not know the differential effects on the opportunities to engage in spiritual pursuits | Will not decrease the opportunities to engage in spiritual pursuits | Will increase the opportunities to engage in spiritual pursuits |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Score   | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| Score Awarded   | (Enter Score Here)  |   |   |   |
| Rationale for awarding score                                    |   |   |   |   |
| Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below |   |   |   |   |
| <b>22. Stress</b>   | Will create conditions that lead to increase in stress levels | Do not know the differential effects on conditions that affect stress levels              | Will not create conditions that lead to increase in stress levels   | Will create conditions that lead to decrease in stress levels   |
| Score   | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| Score Awarded   | (Enter Score Here)  |   |   |   |
| Rationale for awarding score                                    |   |   |   |   |
| Suggested alternative/mitigation measure if score is 2 or below |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Variable Score</b>   |   |   |   |   |
| 1   | (Enter Score Here)  |   |   |   |
| 2   | (Enter Score Here)  |   |   |   |
| Domain Score (Psychological wellbeing)                          | 0   |   |   |   |



ND

**Consolidated Score**

| Variables |                                     | Variable Scores    | Domain                  | Domain Scores (Average) | GNH Score |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1         | Equity                              | (Enter Score Here) | Living Standard         | 0                       | 0         |
| 2         | Economic Security                   | (Enter Score Here) |                         |                         |           |
| 3         | Material Well Being                 | (Enter Score Here) |                         |                         |           |
| 4         | Engagement in Productive Activities | (Enter Score Here) | Good Governance         | 0                       |           |
| 5         | Decision Making Opportunity         | (Enter Score Here) |                         |                         |           |
| 6         | Anti Corruption                     | (Enter Score Here) |                         |                         |           |
| 7         | Legal Recourse                      | (Enter Score Here) |                         |                         |           |
| 8         | Rights                              | (Enter Score Here) | Education               | 0                       |           |
| 9         | Gender                              | (Enter Score Here) |                         |                         |           |
| 10        | Transparency                        | (Enter Score Here) | Health                  | 0                       |           |
| 11        | Skills and Learning                 | (Enter Score Here) |                         |                         |           |
| 12        | Public Health                       | (Enter Score Here) | Ecology                 | 0                       |           |
| 13        | Water and Air Pollution             | (Enter Score Here) |                         |                         |           |
| 14        | Land Degradation                    | (Enter Score Here) |                         |                         |           |
| 15        | Bio-diversity Health                | (Enter Score Here) | Community Vitality      | 0                       |           |
| 16        | Social Support                      | (Enter Score Here) |                         |                         |           |
| 17        | Family                              | (Enter Score Here) | Time Use and Balance    | 0                       |           |
| 18        | Leisure                             | (Enter Score Here) |                         |                         |           |
| 19        | Culture                             | (Enter Score Here) | Culture                 | 0                       |           |
| 20        | Values                              | (Enter Score Here) |                         |                         |           |
| 21        | Spiritual Pursuits                  | (Enter Score Here) | Psychological Wellbeing | 0                       |           |
| 22        | Stress                              | (Enter Score Here) |                         |                         |           |



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## Annexure D: Guide to GNH Policy Screening

### 1. Objectives

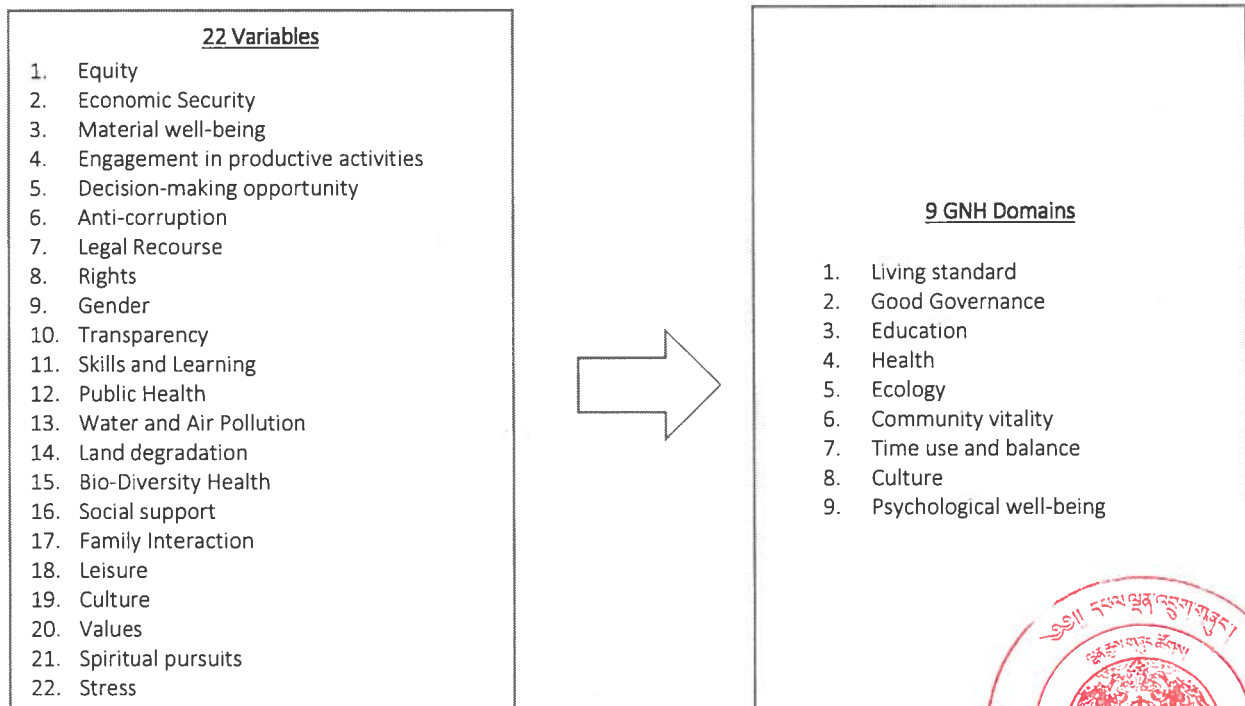
The following are key objectives of instituting GNH Policy Screening Exercise:

- 1.1 To ensure policies are aligned to the philosophy of GNH;
- 1.2 To assess whether the policies are GNH favorable or not;
- 1.3 To ensure a holistic assessment or review of policies; and
- 1.4 To help make informed policy decisions.

### 2. Definition

The GNH Policy Screening Tool is an application designed to assess and review the perceived impacts of draft policies on GNH. It helps provide specific recommendations and feedback to align policies with GNH principles. However, it's not the determining factor for approving or endorsing a policy by the government.

### 3. List of 22 Variables and 9 Domains of the GNH



Note: The GNH variables will be updated periodically in consultation with the Center for Bhutan and GNH Studies





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## 4. GNH Screening Exercise's Process

### 4.1 Policy Finalization and GNH Screening Process

Upon finalizing the draft policy by incorporating feedback from relevant stakeholders, the policy will undergo GNH Policy Screening. This will be conducted by both the proponent sector and the OCASC, through separate exercises:

#### 4.1.1 Bilateral Session Before Screening

Before conducting the GNH screening, a bilateral session will be held between the proponent sector and the OCASC to discuss the relevance of specific GNH indicators in relation to the policy.

- The draft policy will be assessed for its impact on 22 variables across the 9 GNH domains.
- A score ranging from 1 to 4 will be assigned based on the perceived impacts of the draft policy on each variable.

#### 4.1.2 GNH Policy Screening by the Proponent

The screening will be carried out individually by each participant involved in the exercise. The revised draft policy and the Screening Tool will be shared in advance, a few days prior to the meeting.

- PPD or a relevant officer will identify a diverse group of at least 10-15 stakeholders to participate in the screening process.
- NPCD will involve sectoral focal points for gender, environment, climate change, disaster management, poverty, and other relevant cross-cutting issues (as applicable) in the screening process. Additionally, relevant external stakeholders will be invited to participate.
- PPD or a relevant officer will present the draft policy to the screening participants, who must have a clear understanding of the policy before the screening process.
- PPD or a relevant officer shall collect individual screening results for submission to the OCASC.





## 5. GNH Scoring Guide

| Score | Reason  |
|-------|---|
| 1     | A score of 1 should be awarded if the policy is perceived to <b>negatively impact</b> the variable.   |
| 2     | A score of two should be awarded if it is <b>uncertain</b> as to how the policy might impact the variable.  |
| 3     | A score of 3 is awarded if it is certain that the policy will have <b>no negative impact</b> on the variable, even if it is <b>uncertain</b> whether the policy will have any <b>positive impacts</b> . In case the policy <b>does not have any linkage</b> to a variable, then a score of 3 should be awarded. |
| 4     | A score of 4 is awarded if the policy is perceived to have a <b>positive impact</b> on the variable   |
| ***   | <i>Please note that rationales will have to be provided for all scores awarded. In the event a variable scores below 3, then alternatives or mitigation measures will also have to be recommended.</i>  |

## 6. GNH Screening Score Calculation

- 6.1 A score of 3 is the minimum required for a draft policy to be considered as positively impacting the GNH variables linked to the domains.
- 6.2 An aggregate score of 66 (3 x 22 variables) is the threshold for a draft policy to be considered GNH favorable.

## 7. Interpretation of GNH Screening Results

All 22 GNH variables, linked to the 9 domains, must score 3 or higher. If any variable scores below 3, the policy must be revised to address the specific areas of concern.







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**4.1.3 GNH Policy Screening by OCASC**

The screening will be carried out individually by each participant involved in the exercise. The revised draft policy and the Screening Tool will be shared in advance, a few days prior to the meeting.

- National Policy Coordination Division (NPCD) or relevant officer from the proponent agency will present the draft policy to the screening participants, if necessary.
- NPCD shall identify a diverse group of 10 to 15 participants from various divisions within OCASC. Additionally, OCASC will invite relevant sector officials to participate in the screening process.
- NPCD shall involve sectoral focal points for gender, environment, climate change, disaster management, poverty, and other relevant cross-cutting issues (as applicable) in the screening process. Additionally, relevant external stakeholders will be invited to participate.

**4.1.4 Consolidation of GNH Screening Results**

- The proponent shall submit their individual GNH screening results to the OCASC. All rationales for the assigned scores and proposed mitigation measures must be clearly documented.
- NPCD shall compile the screening results submitted by both the proponents and OCASC screeners, analyze the data, and prepare a screening report.
- NPCD shall ensure that data is not manipulated during the screening process or in the preparation of screening reports.

**4.1.5 Submission of Consolidated GNH Screening Results to the Cabinet**

OCASC will consolidate the GNH screening results and, along with the final draft policy, submit both the results and the policy to the Cabinet for review and approval.

