

English Translation:

We need a change of course! Accelerate the transition to a new economy, for a just society on a healthy planet, also for many future generations. As early as 1972, the Club of Rome warned that the "Limits to Growth" were in sight, and that other policies were needed. To no avail. 'Economic growth', as measured by the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), remained 'The goal we are striving for'!

Unfortunately, the consequences are becoming more and more noticeable. Our Earth is heavily burdened by climate disruption, pollution and loss of biodiversity. Things are not going well socially either: our society is struggling with growing inequality, the steady breakdown of the public sector and increasing polarization. And internationally, the people who have contributed the least to the problems suffer the most from their consequences.

Global consequences, more and more people are recognizing that the problems are caused by our current economic model. A model that pursues economic growth and financial profit, and hardly looks at a fair (global) distribution and the consequences for nature, our living environment and our well-being. The laws of this economic system are now leading us long but surely to an ecological and humanitarian disaster: endless growth on a finite planet is simply not possible! Welfare economy So things have to change.

And it can be done differently. If we let ourselves be guided by what is really of value. If we no longer pursue growth and profit maximization, but focus on common good: the well-being of all people, of our planet and of both present and future generations. We must prepare for a true transition, a system change in which we focus on a welfare economy. GDP does not predominate in this, but other issues are much more important, such as: Are basic needs being met worldwide?

How are soil and raw materials distributed? Can nature on Earth still offer future generations enough? Only such a transition can lead to a just society on a healthy planet. Hence our urgent appeal, also to our governments: Choose a new economy, which is aimed at a just society on a healthy planet.

1. Stop the orientation towards GDP growth and focus on goals/indicators that are necessary for survival together. These are mainly Well-being, Inclusivity and Sustainability, in English: Wellbeing, Inclusion and Sustainability, summarized as WISE.
2. Reduce taxes on labour, and in particular tax the use of raw materials and greenhouse gas emissions. Make sure that people with a low income can properly meet their basic needs.
3. The Netherlands is preparing to become a member of the Wellbeing Economy Governments in 2025, where the other indicators will be given priority.*
4. In all economics education from 2025, in addition to the mainstream, insight will be given into the important new currents, such as the Meaning economy, the Donut economy, the Economy for the Common Good, the global Wellbeing Economy Alliance, the Degrowth and Postgrowth movement.
5. The Netherlands follows the EU's proposal to reduce its global ecological footprint by 50% by 2030.

There will be a new social contract, in which a much less unequal income and wealth is pursued. The balance between the lowest paid and the highest paid is fundamentally changed.

*Five countries have already preceded us: Finland, Iceland, New Zealand, Scotland and Wales, which together formed the Wellbeing Economy Governments (WEGo). Remarkable detail: the four first

mentioned countries all have a female prime minister. See www.weall.org, go to Movement and then to WEGo.

Original in Dutch

Het roer moet om! Zet vaart achter de transitie naar een nieuwe economie, voor een rechtvaardige samenleving op een gezonde planeet, ook voor vele volgende generaties. Al in 1972 waarschuwde de Club van Rome dat de 'Grenzen aan de groei' in zicht kwamen, en dat ander beleid nodig was. Het heeft niet mogen baten. 'Economische groei', zoals gemeten wordt met het Bruto Binnenlands Product (BBP), bleef 'Het doel waarnaar we streven'!

De gevolgen worden helaas steeds meer merkbaar. Onze Aarde gaat zwaar gebukt onder klimaatontwrichting, vervuiling en verlies van biodiversiteit. Ook sociaal gaat het niet goed: onze samenleving kampt met groeiende ongelijkheid, de gestage afbraak van de publieke sector en toenemende polarisatie. En internationaal lijden de mensen die het minst aan de problemen hebben bijgedragen het meest onder de gevolgen ervan.

Mondiale gevolgen Steeds meer mensen zien in dat de problemen hun oorzaak vinden in ons huidige economische model. Een model dat economische groei en financiële winst najaagt, en nauwelijks kijkt naar een eerlijke (mondiale) verdeling en de gevolgen voor de natuur, onze leefomgeving en ons welzijn. De wetten van dit economische systeem leiden ons nu langzaam maar zeker naar een ecologische en humanitaire ramp: eindeloze groei op een eindige planeet is domweg niet mogelijk! Welzijnseconomie Het moet dus anders.

En het kan anders. Als we ons laten leiden door wat wérkelijk van waarde is. Als we niet langer groei en winstmaximalisatie nastreven, maar ons richten op gemeenschappelijk welzijn: het welbevinden van alle mensen, van onze planeet en van zowel de huidige als de toekomstige generaties. We moeten ons opmaken voor een ware transitie, een systeemverandering waarbij we inzetten op een welzijnseconomie. Daarin voert niet het BBP de boventoon maar zijn andere vraagstukken veel belangrijker, zoals: Wordt wereldwijd in de basisbehoeften voorzien?

Hoe worden grond en grondstoffen verdeeld? Kan de natuur op Aarde komende generaties nog voldoende bieden? Alleen zo'n transitie kan leiden tot een rechtvaardige samenleving op een gezonde planeet. Vandaar onze dringende oproep, ook aan onze overheden: Kies voor een nieuwe economie, die gericht is op een rechtvaardige samenleving op een gezonde planeet.

1. Stop de oriëntatie op BBP-groei en richt je op doelen/indicatoren die noodzakelijk zijn om samen te kunnen overleven. Dat zijn vooral Welzijn, Inclusiviteit en Duurzaamheid, in het Engels: Wellbeing, Inclusion en Sustainability, samengevat als WISE.
2. Verlaag de belasting op arbeid, en belast vooral het gebruik van grondstoffen en de uitstoot van broeikasgas- sen. Zorg daarbij dat mensen met een laag inkomen goed in hun basisbehoeften kunnen voorzien.
3. Nederland bereidt zich voor om in 2025 lid te worden van de Wellbeing Economy Governments, waar de andere indicatoren voorrang krijgen.*
4. In al het economie-onderwijs wordt vanaf 2025, in aanvulling op de mainstream, inzicht gegeven in de belang- rijke nieuwe stromingen, zoals de Betekenis-economie, de Donut-economie, de Economy for the Common Good, de mondiale Wellbeing Economy Alliance, de Degrowth- en Postgrowth-beweging.
5. Nederland volgt het voorstel van de EU om in 2030 de mondiale ecologische voetafdruk met 50% verkleind te hebben.

6. Er komt een nieuw sociaal contract, waarbij een veel minder ongelijk inkomen en vermogen wordt nagestreefd. De balans tussen laagstbetaalden en hoogstbetaalden wordt fundamenteel veranderd. *Vijf landen gingen ons al voor: Finland, IJsland, Nieuw-Zeeland, Schotland en Wales, die samen de Wellbeing Economy Governments (WEGo) hebben gevormd. Opmerkelijk detail: de vier eerst genoemde landen hebben alle een vrouwelijke premier. Zie www.weall.org, ga naar Movement en dan naar WEGo.

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