

## Propositions

Belonging to the thesis

*Business in the Age of Sustainable Development*

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1. Companies engage more with SDG targets that are actionable within their (value chain) operations than those outside of it, and more with SDG targets that “avoid harm” than those that “do good” (**Chapter 2**)
2. While most companies’ economic activities are expected to promote industrialization (SDG 9), economic productivity (SDG 8), and may help people meet their basic needs (SDGs 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11), most activities also degrade the environment (SDGs 13, 14, 15) and harm human health (SDG 3) (**Chapter 3**)
3. The degree of alignment between companies and the SDGs is an indicator of long-term sustainability success, which is dependent on the types of economic activities a company undertakes (**Chapter 4**)
4. Improving impacts on sustainable development requires companies to assess and manage their positive and negative, and direct and indirect, impacts on the SDGs in an integrated (nexus) manner (**Chapter 5**)
5. The SDGs provide a governance logic, a systems (nexus) logic, and a strategic logic that can help transform towards sustainable societies (**Chapter 6**)
6. Sustainable development outcomes follow from nonlinear processes
7. The SDGs exert institutional pressure on stakeholders to apply their creativity and work towards achieving universal sustainable development objectives
8. The SDGs cannot be achieved without the involvement of the private sector
9. Human-induced climate change and biodiversity loss are making the Earth system much less hospitable to the development of human societies
10. Interdisciplinary research is required to understand and improve companies’ impacts on sustainable development
11. “Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet” (Stephen Hawking)