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The ultimate goal that guides political and social change within the framework of the Bhutan-inspired New Development Paradigm is the creation of an enlightened society in which the happiness and well-being of all people and sentient beings is the ultimate purpose of governance. The strong dimension of spirituality in this perspective is paramount. It shapes GNH and the related notion of development it contains. It is as Karma Ura and collaborators have stressed: “If material growth undermines the spiritual framework of society and its values of compassion and integrity, then development has not occurred”¹

The whole set of things coming out of Bhutan’s paradigm, in sum, have to do with the fact that life’s purpose far surpasses the material – and further still irresponsible – forms of consumption and wealth accumulation. Progress and all choices, therefore, should be addressed through the language of spiritual wisdom, together with ecological, social, and cultural perspectives. As Ura and collaborators put it on a clear dimension: “The language of spiritual wisdom can...be understood as the language of practical sanity”². Happiness, an enlightened society, all sentient beings, spiritual wisdom, and other elements of Bhutan’s NDP render it a version of Ecological Economics’ model that goes over the biophysical component of the economy-in-society-in-nature edifice. In short, it is truly Ecological Economics – and something more. The question is to what extent sane proposals like it can be appreciated, or adopted for that matter.

¹ Ura, Karma, Alkire, Sabina, Zangmo, Tshoki, and Wangdi, Karma. 2012. *An Extensive Analysis of GNH Index*, p. 132. Thimphu: The Centre for Bhutan Studies. Available at: <http://www.grossnationalhappiness.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/An%20Extensive%20Analysis%20of%20GNH%20Index.pdf>

² *Id.*, p. 137.