

Checklists for Well-structured Sets of Values and Alternatives

Reminder:

- **Alternatives** (also: options) are your possible courses of action
- **Values** are your own criteria along which you will rate your alternatives.

*Checklist for a Well-structured Final Set of **Values***

Fundamental (not instrumental)

- Is each value important by itself, rather than to achieve some other purpose?

Positive

- Would I rather have more, rather than less, of each of my values?

Non-redundant

- Do none of my values overlap in meaning?

Objective/quantifiable

- Are all my values specified with sufficient clarity that someone else could help me find information about my decision?
- Can I use units to measure and describe each value?
- Could somebody else use those units to provide facts about my decision?
- Can I rate my possible courses of action (alternatives) as better or worse for each value, based on these units?

Meaningful

- Does the quantification above reflect what is really important to me about my values?

Complete

- Am I willing to commit to my value set?
- If two of my alternatives were identical with respect to all my values, would I be willing to toss a coin to choose among them?

Relevant

- Do my alternatives differ substantially with respect to each value?
- Do my values differentiate substantially between my alternatives? In other words, is none of my values the same for all of my possible courses of action?

Independent

- Can I rate my alternatives for each value without having to think about the other values?

*Checklist for a Well-structured Set of **Alternatives***

- Is each of my alternatives a **specific course of action**?
- Do I have **at least three** alternatives?
- Can I eventually choose **one, and only one**, of my alternatives?
- Do my alternatives **differ substantially from one another**?