

American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences

Resolution Supporting UN Millennium Development Goals

WHEREAS, the United National Millennium Development Goals are:

- Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
- Achieve Universal Primary Education
- Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
- Reduce Child Mortality; Improve Maternal Health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases
- Ensure Environmental Sustainability
- Develop a Global Partnership for Development.

WHEREAS, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG) were adopted in 2000 and are to be achieved by 2015; and

WHEREAS, MDGs were adopted by the international community as a framework for development activities of over 190 countries in 10 regions of the world; and

WHEREAS, world leaders have pledged to achieve measureable improvements in the lives of the world's poorest through the MDGs; and

WHEREAS, MDGs will be achieved with the joint effort of government and private sector from both developed and developing countries; and

WHEREAS, the MDGs encompass universally accepted human values and rights; and

WHEREAS, gender equity and empowering women are required to combat poverty, hunger and disease and ensure sustainable development; and

WHEREAS, the current financial and social climate of the world poses a risk to fulfilling MDGs, and

WHEREAS, Family and Consumer Sciences professionals have the skills for social, emotional, and financial support to see fulfillment of the MDGs; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences supports continued effort by developed and developing nations to meet the United Nations Millennium Development Goals by 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED that AAFCS will play a public policy advocacy role for families in regards to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Background and Supporting Information

The United National Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted in 2000 when the international community pledged to free men, women and children from poverty. The goals are to be achieved by 2015.

The goals were based on the universally accepted human values and rights of freedom from hunger, having a basic education, have good health, and prepare future generations of the world. While progress has been made, fulfilling the goals by 2015 is in jeopardy.

Goal 1 - *Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger* is not on target to be achieved due to continued conflict in the world and displacement of people from their homes. The number of refugees worldwide has increased significantly with more than 42 million people displaced within and outside their countries. Displacement affects the ability for individuals to have full and productive work. Eradication of poverty cannot be accomplished without employment. For many who are employed, pay is so low that they have little hope of relief from poverty.

Goal 2 - *Achieve universal primary education* is not just number of children attending schools, but it also encompasses quality education where children are able to attend school regularly to learn basic literacy and numeracy skills. For children to reach full potential and for countries to develop, education must be provided at both primary and secondary levels.

Goal 3 - *Promote gender equality and empower women* means that education is available equally to both girls and boys. While this is being achieved in urban areas, in rural areas of developing countries are not being educated. When safe schools are built in remote areas, and the concept of later marriage is promoted, school attendance by girls increases. Almost two-thirds of women in developing countries work in vulnerable jobs as unpaid family workers. Women are also disproportionately represented in part-time or seasonal work which has no job security or benefits.

Goal 4 - *Reduce child mortality* which is still unacceptability high. The goal of MDGs by 2015 is to reduce by two-thirds the mortality rate of children under age 5. Improved vaccination rates of children can significantly reduce mortality.

Goal 5 - *Improve maternal health* by reducing by 75% the mortality rate. Maternal mortality rate remains unacceptably high with more than 500,000 women dying as a result of pregnancy or childbirth in 2005. 95% of the deaths occurred in developing regions of the world. Skilled health workers at delivery are critical to reduce maternal death, however nearly 40% of births in developing countries do not have health professionals available.

Goal 6 - *Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases* is critical because every day, nearly 7500 people become infected with HIV and 5,500 die from AIDS due to lack of HIV prevention and treatment services. While deaths from AIDS have started to decline due to treatment, the number of people living with HIV has risen due to longer life expectancy. Currently there are 33 million living with HIV, the majority in sub-Saharan Africa.

Goal 7 - *Ensure environmental sustainability* will integrate sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources. Climate changes and global warming continue to be major threat to all parts of the world. To reduce global warming means more efficient technologies to supply energy needed. Almost half of the world's

population face a scarcity of water as water use has grown at more than twice the rate of population during the past century.

Goal 8 - *Develop a global partnership for development* continues to be a challenge as economic uncertainty grips the world. Development needs to be a partnership of government and non-government organizations, and the private sector. Countries will have to work together to address the special needs of the least developed countries. An open, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory trading and financial system needs to be developed. Trade related assistance needs to be increased. New technologies for information and communication need to be available.

Reference: The Millennium Development Goals Report, 2008

DRAFT