



IFHE Statement related to the Call for Written Statements

to the CSocD55 to be held from 1st to 10th February 2017
at UN Headquarters in New York.

**The priority theme is:
“Strategies for the Eradication of Poverty to achieve
sustainable Development for All”**

**“Territorial and Family orientated Strategies
are required to end Poverty”**

Submitted by: International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE)

Introduction, Objective and Purpose of the Statement

Eradicating poverty in all its forms remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity

(<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdgoverview/post-2015-development-agenda/goal-1.html>).

The different forms of poverty and hunger result from various political, economic and ecological causes and effects.

As an advocate for families and households the IFHE highlights its main demands to eradicate poverty.

Overview of the Issue as it relates to the Work of the NGO

Home Economics has always been dealing with quality of life for families, sustainable living and a responsible use of resources. Home Economics is considered the original field of research focusing on economic, social and ecological aspects of everyday living. Everyday living takes place in households. Households are basic and essential building blocks of societies and economy, where members take decisions regarding their behaviour, consumption and economic actions.

The main and basic aim of households is to meet the needs of their household members. Basic needs are physiological, like air, food, water, clothing and housing. In addition, every human being endeavours to feel safety. “Safeness” includes physical safety, which is not destroyed by occurrences like wars, natural disasters, political instability or violence. Even financial security as well as health and well-being are most important basic needs of all individuals.

Household members combine internal household resources (time, competencies, manpower and much more) with external resources (nature, market goods, political rights etc.) and frame conditions to reach each household member's needs and subsistence goals.

Based on this, from a Home Economics perspective there are two main contributing factors to the state of poverty. One of the main factors is the unstable framework conditions for accessing and combining basic resources, which is a reality in many countries in the world. Poverty often results from lack of employment opportunities, lack of economical rights, lack of social security, especially for women, unstable political conditions, wars and disasters. A household interacts with social, political, economic and ecological surrounding to meet its needs, so their performance is strongly depending on this socio-economic framework.

Based on results of case studies and experiences poverty and hunger often do have territorial dimensions, which cannot be eradicated by a strategy developed only on national level. Each territorial has its specific economic, social structures and conditions. These different territorial challenges require that policy makers and stakeholders on all levels develop strategies that

- follow multi-sectoral and integrated approaches.
- need multi-level governance and institutions.
- need improved territorial information systems for evidence-based poverty eradication, food security and poverty policies.
- link social policies with competitiveness agendas¹.

The second factor for household performance is depending on the individual and specific characteristics of the household members, their attitudes, competencies and education as well as their relationship to each other. These issues are influencing household's economic and social standard. In both, industrial and developing countries, many problems of households occur from poor interpersonal skills and improper management and application of household resources. There is often an underappreciation of the need for household's finances, health, nutrition, housing and shopping needs to be managed in thought out and responsible way to establish and retain the families and households' success.

The act of refocusing families and household members to overcome poverty is based on the content and context of the education of all people in the management of their everyday lives. When the conditions of the framework are present, it establishes the grounding or basis to overcome poverty and conduct sustainable lifestyles as a desirable pattern for quality everyday life and reduce the incidence of family poverty.

Only strong and educated families and family members with access to material and non-material resources will have the power to care for their families, to participate in society, community and economic processes. Empowerment in everyday life management leads to valuable results for development through educating and advising families and individuals in Home Economics issues, such as food production, maternal and family health as well as capacity building. This education is pertinent for rural people, urban poor, unsettled immigrants, economically dispossessed victims of political and instability, the older population that may not have adequate arrangement for post-employment periods of their lives.

Policymakers who are the primary owners of development resources are key to understanding these issues and must seek to put systems in place to alleviate these deficiencies in the social development on territorial sectors.

Powerbrokers for education, fundamental survival information, community living and environmental education, health and well-being, economic, conflict free and human rights propagation are only some of the critical areas for immediate attention to tackle the urgent need to end poverty in families.

Analysis of the current situation of marginalised families that suffer from poverty, hunger, lack of education, diseases, lack of access to finances and job opportunities, conflicts and disasters strongly suggests a focus on improving framework conditions adopted to the territorial needs and on empowering families, households and individuals as a strategy to reach the Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1).

Specific Examples of Accomplishments by the NGO and remaining Challenges

Home Economists around the world are contributing to the reduction of poverty every day through their professional work, which is multifaceted. All over the world Home Economists are working on research and education programs for i.e. financial literacy to avoid over-indebtedness, to generate income and develop own businesses.

As debts counsellors and family advisers Home Economics professionals show ways out of poverty and give active support to families which are in financial trouble and face social exclusion. The IFHE promotes the contribution of Home Economics to eradicate poverty through several statements to the UN and national governments, workshops, conferences and so on.

A Way forward: Expectations, specific Recommendations for Policymakers from the Perspective of IFHE

Based on a Home Economics view the performance of individuals living in households and communities are the fundamental units of a functioning society and economy without poverty. Women are of high importance as they are often responsible for caring for the family. Households need framework conditions for poverty prevention and for overcoming poverty.

The IFHE recommends to focus on following priority actions on poverty eradication:

- Focus on households and communities as key for the eradication of poverty.
- Improving access to sustainable livelihoods, entrepreneurial opportunities and productive resources; especially for women.
- Addressing the disproportionate impact of poverty on women; providing universal access to basic social services and security.
- Strengthen education in everyday life management in both, developing and developed countries for persons of all ages.
- Develop social protection systems to support those who cannot support themselves such as elderly.
- Establish stable economic, politic and social framework conditions.
- Intensifying international cooperation for poverty eradication (UNSDG website).

It is extremely important that governments set economic, social and political frameworks which enable individuals and families to use their full potential and overcome poverty.



Closing Sentence

The International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) demands that development strategies and measures focus on individuals and families as the core units of the society and the economy, and empower them to improve their quality of life and achieve well-being. In the current political, social, cultural and economic conditions, educating and advising individuals and families through home economics education in the management of their resources and improvement of their everyday life are keys to sustainable development and to overcome poverty as drivers of development and critical to the success of the new global goals.

ⁱ OECD/FAO/UNCDF (2016), *Adopting a Territorial Approach to Food Security and Nutrition Policy*, OECD Publishing, Paris.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264257108-en>