



Proposed Statement for General Discussion

“Women’s Empowerment Essential For Sustainable Development”

The International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) and the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) recognise the importance of the Sustainable Development Goal 5 and its targets, to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, and acknowledge the integration of gender equality in other related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Cultures and attitudes, which are based on women’s roles as housekeepers and mothers only, limit the rights and the potential of women. Home Economists advocate for changing these sorts of cultures and attitudes and support the transformation of gender relations at grassroots and policymaking levels. Home Economists acknowledge the importance of equality in education, employment and business. But gender equality in education or employment cannot be reached, if there is no gender equality at home.

IFHE and ACWW have long advocated for women and girls and the UN aims of gender equality and women’s empowerment, highlighting the relevance of women’s and girl’s everyday-life education and its role for sustainable development.

Home Economics is about the relationship between the family members, the role of men and women related to the household tasks, unpaid and paid work, as well as the quality of life for all household members. Gender equality and women’s empowerment start at home and are based on an equal partnership between men and women.

Women need to be empowered through basic education and education for everyday life, including economics, personal rights, and about their ability to contribute to the SDGs. Women are crucial for the sustainable development of all family members, the household, communities and the economy.



Cultural, political and socioeconomic circumstances influence the living conditions and chances of women and girls, while at the same time, women, families and households are key factors for sustainable development. Women are key actors to managing local resources: for example with improved cook stoves and education women can prevent respiratory diseases and conserve the environment.

To achieve women's empowerment and gender equality by 2030 and enable women to contribute to all SDGs the IFHE and ACWW call for an end to all forms of violence against women and girls, coupled with the following:

- Awareness of the significant role and high productive potential of empowered women as key actors for reaching social, economic and sustainable development.
- Basic and higher education for all girls and women of the world to improve their everyday life management skills for the benefit of their household and sustainable development.
- Partnerships between women and men to receive development opportunities to strengthen communities.
- Realisation of gender equality to improve women's access to capital, resources, land, markets, technology, information, technical assistance and training.
- Acknowledgement of the importance of education in Home Economics subjects to improve food security, eradicate poverty, and make progress in health and well-being.
- Disaggregation of data to measure separate development of men and women and to ensure that rural women are not left behind.