

**RESOLUTION**  
**American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences**  
**Support of UN Millennium Development Goals**

**WHEREAS**, the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations are to:

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

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

**WHEREAS**, Millennium Development Goals 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 Millennium Development Goals; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the Millennium Development Goals encompass universally accepted human values and rights; and

**WHEREAS**, the Millennium Development Goals of gender equity and empowering women are necessary 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 the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, and

**WHEREAS**, Family and Consumer Sciences professionals have the skills for social, emotional, and financial support to see fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences supports continued effort by developed and developing nations to meet the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations by 2015; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that AAFCS will have a public policy advocacy role for individuals and families in regards to the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations.

# UN Millennium Development Goals Resolution

## Rationale:

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 are based on the universally accepted human values and rights of freedom from hunger, having a basic education, having good health, and preparing 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. More than 42 million people in the world are currently displaced by conflict or persecution, both within and outside the borders of their countries. Displacement affects the ability for individuals, particularly women, to have full and productive work. Half of the world's workforce has unstable and insecure jobs. Eradication of poverty cannot be accomplished without full and productive employment for all at a wage that allows individuals and families to meet basic needs. 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 a goal not just about the 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 every child 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 education is available equally to both girls and boys. While this is being achieved in urban areas, in rural areas of many developing countries education is not readily available to girls. 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 due to lack of education. 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, especially in underdeveloped countries. 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 mortality rates by 75%. Maternal mortality rate remains unacceptably high with more than 500,000 women dying as a result of pregnancy or childbirth in 2005. Nine-five percent (95%) of the deaths occur in developing regions of the world. Adolescent pregnancy contributes to the cycle of maternal deaths and childhood mortality. Skilled health workers at delivery are critical to reduce maternal death, however nearly 40% of births in underdeveloped countries do not have health professionals available for assistance.

**Goal 6 - *Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases*** is a critical goal. Every day, nearly 7,500 people become infected with HIV and 5,500 die from AIDS due to lack of HIV prevention and treatment services. Currently there are 33 million living with HIV, the majority in sub-Saharan Africa. 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. In almost every region of the world, women represent a growing share of people living with HIV. While several countries have national plans of action for children orphaned by AIDS, and other vulnerable children as a result of HIV/AIDS, the process is slow. Expansion of prevention programs for malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases is also critical to reduce deaths.

**Goal 7 - *Ensure environmental sustainability*** will integrate sustainable development into a country's 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 faces a scarcity of water because the use of water has grown at more than twice the rate as the increase in the population during the past century.

**Goal 8 - *Develop a global partnership for development*** is a goal that continues to be a challenge as economic uncertainty grips the world. Development needs to be a partnership of government and non-government organizations, as well as 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 must be available for global development to occur.

**Impact Statement:**

There is little, if any, cost to AAFCS or their affiliates with the adoption of this resolution.

**Implementation Strategies:**

1. Association members will be encouraged to become familiar with the UN Millennium Development Goals.
2. AAFCS affiliates will be able to use UN Millennium Development Goals as a foundation for programming and activities.
3. AAFCS Public Policy Committee will review goals and address policy implications and potential strategies as part of an advocacy role for individuals and families.

*Reference: The Millennium Development Goals Report, United Nations, 2008*