



# GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE

**CONNECTING PEOPLE AND NATIONS THROUGH  
COOPERATION, SHARED GOALS, AND MUTUAL RESPECT**



Global interdependence, also known as globalization, is the process of individuals, families, communities, companies, and governments around the world interacting and integrating. These networks of support are formed between and among individuals, governments, and natural environments. The quality of the exchange of ideas, information, cultures, goods, and services that cross national borders is determined by cooperation and respect. Cooperation and respect will advance society.

Countries that promote interconnectedness are likely to be open to international trade. The people who live in these countries are open to travel, and money tends to be more interrelated. Such countries invest in education and research, both domestically and internationally. The benefits of global interconnectedness include education, sharing knowledge and technology to stimulate growth, reducing cultural barriers, and a higher rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, which is used to measure the country's economic health.

Global conflict may adversely affect the sharing of resources, solving issues, and using technology to improve interconnections. The fact is that all things in our world are interconnected, even when we do not necessarily see or understand these connections.

In the United States, the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE– US) participates as a United Nations Liaison and serves on the NGO (non-governmental organization) Committee on the Family to give Family and Consumer Sciences a voice in addressing international issues. This is affirmed by the members of the “United Nations Group of Friends of the Family” statement.

“We are convinced that the sustainability of communities and societies largely rests on the strength of the family as a basic unit of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members, particularly children. We recognize the vital role of the family in attaining the internationally agreed development goals and confirm our commitment to enhance the contribution of families in the efforts to achieve sustainable development goals by promoting family-oriented policies and prioritizing the needs and priorities of the family at the national and international levels.” (United Nations General Assembly, New York, February 18, 2015).

Family and Consumer Sciences professionals are encouraged to become aware of the 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals that promote global interconnectedness, which is the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice.