

Global Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Consumer Citizens´



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR HOME ECONOMICS

Dear IFHE Members,

I am pleased to announce the creation of an e-book focusing on global sustainable development by the IFHE Programme Committee on Consumer Issues and Family Resource Management.

At the Earth Summit 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, twenty years after the first global environment conference, the United Nations sought to help Governments rethink economic development and find measures to halt the destruction of irreplaceable natural resources and pollution of the planet. The Earth Summit 1992 resulted in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; the Statement of Forest Principles; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Agenda 21 of the meeting focused on “CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS”, containing the following programme areas:

- (a) Focusing on unsustainable patterns of production and consumption
- (b) Developing national policies and strategies to encourage changes in unsustainable consumption patterns

Since the 1990s, the home economists worldwide have taken up related questions and research areas of sustainable consumption. The International Federation for Home Economics established the “*Programme Committee on Consumer Issues and Family Resource Management*” to promote a global network for home economists to exchange aspects as well as research results in the field of sustainable consumption, resource management and education for sustainable behaviour. Many aspects, ideas, evaluation documents and research papers related to the theme were presented and discussed at workshops, conferences and symposiums over the past decade.

With the creation of the e-book **Global Sustainable Development: A Challenge for Consumer Citizens´** the *Consumer Issues and Family Resource Management* Committee follows an innovative way to present current projects and research reports by compiling information, ideas, theories, practices, perspectives and recommendations from home economic experts in order to improve sustainable consumption and education for consumer citizens all over the world.

The e-book represents a valuable contribution to the aims and guidelines of sustainable consumption and provides an important knowledge for home economists. This should be recognized as a source of pride for the Consumer Issues and Family Resource Management Committee as it required extensive effort and organisation to bring this project to fruition.

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