

ENVIRONMENT

160-010 Chemicals in the Environment (Formerly "Chemicals in Agriculture"; Convention 1970; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Amended 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Amended 2016; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, The use of chemicals increases food supply-and-controls insects; and

WHEREAS, Chemical controls indiscriminately kill insects and damage habitats; and

WHEREAS, Vital pollinator species, such as butterflies and bees, and their habitats, are declining due to misuse, overuse, and drift from spraying of chemicals; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Inform the public that restoring a portion of the land to native habitats can protect biodiversity and slow species loss, help control pests, enhance pollination, and prevent losses of nutrients and water from soil;
- Advocate for the private and public sectors to continue research on the impact of chemicals on the environment;
- Educate the public on the prudent and safe use of chemicals and efforts to conserve, protect, and create pollinator habitats.

160-020 Climate Change (Convention 2021: Includes “Global Warming,” Convention 1991; and “Ozone Depletion,” Convention 1991)

WHEREAS, Scientific studies indicate that emissions of greenhouse gases are depleting the earth’s stratospheric ozone layer and adding to global warming; and

WHEREAS, The ozone layer acts as a shield against harmful solar radiation that can negatively impact individuals and biological processes in nature; and

WHEREAS, Greenhouse gases contribute to changes in the world’s climate resulting in substantially altered weather patterns, increases in sea levels, loss of soil moisture, and dangerous tropical storms, droughts, and floods, adversely affecting agriculture, forests, wetlands, water resources, and coastal areas; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Encourage actions by lawmakers and private industry worldwide to:
 - Reduce emissions of harmful greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide;
 - Research and develop economically feasible alternative energy sources;
 - Enter into, enforce, and comply with international treaties relating to ozone depletion;
 - Promote international cooperation to address the effects of greenhouse gases and changes to the climate;
 - Promote efficient use of energy;
- Educate individuals about:
 - The dangers of greenhouse gases and their effect on ozone depletion and global warming;
 - Personal choices that reduce this effect, including personal transportation, electricity usage, and waste recycling.

160-030 Conservation of Natural Resources (Convention 2021: Includes “Forest Resources,” Convention 1984; “Wilderness Areas,” Convention 1970; and “Conservation and Preservation of Natural Resources,” Convention 2018)

WHEREAS, Coastal wetlands, public lands, national forests, and wilderness areas provide environmental, economic, educational, scenic, and recreational benefits and should be managed and utilized to their utmost potential; and

WHEREAS, These natural resource areas need to be protected to:

- Provide habitat to a variety of plant and animal life;
- Preserve resources for present and future generations;
- Provide environmental protections that prevent contamination, flooding, erosion, and preserve the ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, These areas should be maintained through forest and wetland resource management to ensure their conservation and sustainability while providing access as necessary for the many beneficial resources found within these areas; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Advocate for protection, rehabilitation, and restoration of these areas affected by fire, waste, insects, and disease;
- Support and encourage participation in conservation education;
- Support and encourage actions to safeguard coastal wetlands, public lands, national forests, and wilderness areas for the benefit of all;
- Encourage and support proper protection and management, sustainable development, and beautification of these resources;
- Support improved land use management and careful consideration of the location of these areas;
- Encourage private industry and governmental agencies to work together and encourage research to identify ways to support the proper protection, development, and rehabilitation of our national resources;
- Advocate for the enactment and enforcement of legislation for the protection and preservation of these areas.

160-040 Conservation of Wildlife (Convention 2021: Includes “Endangered Species,” Convention 1987; and “Wildlife Conservation,” Convention 1987)

WHEREAS, Natural ecosystems and their diversity of wild animals are disappearing at a rapid rate and many species have been so depleted in number or threatened by the loss of habitat that they are in danger of becoming extinct; and

WHEREAS, Wildlife is in danger of possible extinction because of poaching, destructive fishing practices, and the destruction of or damage to terrestrial and marine habitats; and

WHEREAS, Congress has recognized the importance of conservation of such species by enacting the Endangered Species Act; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Support the reauthorization and implementation of the Endangered Species Act with the appropriation of sufficient funding and the flexibility to recognize personal property rights;
- Support the enactment and enforcement of laws for the protection and conservation of wildlife.

160-050 Disposal of Hazardous and Nuclear Waste (Convention 2021: Includes “Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites,” Convention 1985; and “Nuclear Waste Disposal,” Convention 1984)

WHEREAS, Hazardous and nuclear waste generated by commercial, industrial, agricultural, and medical processes are potentially perilous to human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, Disposal sites are necessary for responsible and proper disposal of waste; and

WHEREAS, Disposal sites and the necessary transportation of waste can impact human life and the environment; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support:

- Legislation and funding providing for the safe, responsible disposal and transportation of hazardous and nuclear waste products;
- Continued implementation and education of the community about these laws;
- Implementation of processes to reduce the creation and necessary transportation of waste;
- Promotion of cooperative action and communication between regulatory agencies and those in waste disposal generation and management;
- Legislation for a comprehensive national plan for the transportation and disposal of nuclear waste that accommodates local, state, and tribal concerns.

160-060 Energy Resources (Convention 2021: Includes “Fuel Conservation,” Convention 1975; and “Renewable Energy,” Convention 2007)

WHEREAS, National security, economic wellbeing, and environmental concerns demand a balanced use of renewable energy resources and reduced consumption of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, Renewable energy resources reduce the dependence of the United States on foreign energy, are environmentally sensitive, create economic opportunities for American families, and are necessary in meeting the nation’s future energy sustainability; and

WHEREAS, Renewable energy can play an important role in reducing the use of the finite supply of fossil fuels; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Promote and conduct conservation programs that relate to reducing the level of energy consumption;
- Encourage and support funding for research into greater fuel efficiencies and encourage more fuel-efficient and renewable energy sources;
- Support legislation to fund and expand renewable energy resources, including a higher national renewable energy standard and decreasing consumption of all non-renewable fuels;
- Encourage lawmakers, private industry, and consumers to focus public attention on the need for alternative energy and coordinated energy policies;
- Encourage balance between the interests of proper management of resources, adequate water supplies, protection of wildlife, and the interests of energy production.

160-070 Household Waste Management (Convention 2021: Includes “Household Hazardous Waste (HHW),” Convention 1988; and “Waste Management and Recycling,” Convention 1997)

WHEREAS, The disposal of household waste, including the disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW), which contains corrosive, toxic, flammable, or reactive ingredients, can:

- Pollute the environment;
- Harm plant and animal life;
- Leach into soil and ground water;
- Produce toxic gases or spontaneously combust; and

WHEREAS, The use of green products and recycling conserves natural resources and helps protect the environment by preserving the quality of the environment and reducing the quantity of solid waste; and

WHEREAS, The reduction of packaging used on products for the household decreases the amount of household waste; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Support the use of green products and substitution of non-hazardous products for household cleaners, yard care, and car maintenance;
- Promote public awareness of the dangers of improper disposal of household hazardous waste;
- Encourage local and state agencies to provide and promote public participation in recycling, household hazardous waste “drop off” programs, collection days, and permanent collection sites, and to provide educational materials through the classroom, publications, and the media;
- Encourage retailers and manufacturers to reduce over-packaging, to promote recycling within their businesses, and to provide information to households on safe disposal and recycling;
- Support legislation that encourages continued development of and standards for green products, and encourages efforts to increase appropriate recycling.

160-080 Local Parks and Recreation Areas (Convention 1964; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, Many communities face increased demand for outdoor activities to improve quality of life and equitable access to public recreation areas; and

WHEREAS, In many areas the land available for public use is restricted; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to work with their communities to maintain established recreational areas, increase sustainability and enhance environmental stewardship, and support the creation of new parks, playgrounds, and diverse recreational facilities.

160-090 Management of Outer Space (Formerly "Control of Outer Space"; Convention 1959; Amended 1983; Reviewed 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Reviewed 1999; 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, The United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space:

- Limits use of the moon and other celestial bodies exclusively to peaceful purposes and prohibits the establishment of military bases, installations, or fortifications; the testing of weapons; or the conduct of military maneuvers;
- Prohibits the placement of nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction on any celestial body or manmade structure in outer space;
- Provides that any exploration or use of outer space shall be in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations; and

WHEREAS, The use of outer space for research and commercial development is unregulated; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:-

- Support the United Nations' efforts to prohibit the militarization of outer space;
- Encourage responsible and safe use of outer space to achieve advances in space technology and the emerging commercial development in outer space.

160-100 Protection of Oceans (Convention 2011; Reviewed 2015; Amended 2019; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, Oceans contain approximately 97% of the earth's water supply, generate approximately 50% of the earth's oxygen, and provide almost 20% of the animal protein humans eat, provide vital natural resources, are a frontier for scientific exploration, and are critical to the world economy and national security; and

WHEREAS, Carbon dioxide from the atmosphere has been shown to cause ocean acidification, which may cause serious biological and economic harm; and

WHEREAS, Only 13% of the world's ocean waters constitute marine wilderness and the preservation and study of such areas is necessary to understand the restoration of degraded marine ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, Programs dealing with ocean resources, preservation, and restoration do not reflect a unified approach towards preserving and restoring the oceans; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support:

- The development of an international ocean policy that unifies and coordinates ocean preservation and restoration efforts;
- Policy decisions to ensure the conservation and long-term sustainability of marine resources;
- Efforts to manage fisheries, protect marine habitats, and maintain and restore marine ecosystems;
- Efforts by the State Department and US Agency for International Development to address global problems of ocean-borne plastic waste and other pollution debris, including plastic waste cleanup, waste management, and recycling.

160-110 Soil and Water Conservation (Formerly “Soil Conservation”; Convention 1950; Amended 1984; Reaffirmed 1988, Amended 1991; Amended, 1995; Reviewed 1999; Reviewed, 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015; Reviewed 2019; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, Progress has been made by many states in promoting and developing a sound soil and water conservation practice; and

WHEREAS, Much remains to be done before all vital natural resources are safeguarded from waste and destruction; and

WHEREAS, There have been tangible and beneficial results from the local operations of active and vigorous soil and water conservation districts assisted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support:

- Periodic inventories by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, to provide complete factual information about our land in cooperation with conservation farm planning done in soil and water conservation districts and as an aid to industry, utilities, wildlife organizations, and recreational users;
- The work of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, which gives technical assistance in developing and applying farm conservation plans for soil and water conservation districts and urges the continued expansion of practical, on-the-farm assistance needed by farmers to implement sound conservation measures.

160-120 Water Quality and Supply (Convention 1993; Reviewed 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Amended 2017; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, A dependable water supply is essential to the survival of the world's plant and animal life, and domestic, commercial, agricultural, industrial, and environmental needs; and

WHEREAS, Pollutants entering our streams, lakes, and underground water supply may contribute to food shortages, disease, and severe environmental degradation; and

WHEREAS, Rehabilitation and preservation of groundwater, watersheds, wetlands, and forests are important factors both for water supply and water quality; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support:

- Conservation and proper management of the world's water supply;
- Enforcement of laws protecting water quality;
- Development and implementation of systematic plans to prevent groundwater contamination;
- Procedures to prohibit and prevent pollution of streams and water supplies, and require local communities, landlords, and businesses in violation of pollution laws to remediate their pollution;
- Development of a means for individuals and businesses to pay their fair share of the cost of maintaining clean water supply;
- Testing and conservation of water supplies, including groundwater, rivers, coastlines, watersheds, wetlands, and forests;
- Implementation of an overall program to ensure the necessary supply of water by encouraging research into water filtration and desalination methods;
- Enactment of legislation and enforcement of regulations at all levels to protect and expand the existing supply of clean water.