



Resolutions and Recommendations

2019–2021

What are the R&Rs?



FAWCO's Resolutions and Recommendations (R&Rs) are guidelines for FAWCO and Club action over the next two-year period and should be suitable for practical implementation.

They are normally influenced by current world problems, current concerns of American citizens abroad and current problems faced by women everywhere.



Aligning with FAWCO's Mission Statement



FAWCO is an international federation of independent organizations whose mission is

- to build strong support networks for its American and international membership;
- to improve the lives of women and girls worldwide;
- to advocate for the rights of U.S. citizens overseas; and
- to mobilize the skills of its membership in support of global initiatives for education, the environment, health and human rights.





1. Resolved: To support, strengthen and expand the FAWCO network.

Recommended:

1. Encourage FAWCO members to participate actively in conferences, regional meetings, workshops, programs, committees and Teams.
2. Reinforce the value of FAWCO membership by ongoing information exchange among member clubs, including unique experiences and best practices.
 - 2.1. Strengthen and empower FAWCO Reps' ability to share information with their respective clubs by having monthly direct communication via web-based calls between the board (e.g. VP of member clubs) and the Reps.
 - 2.2. Communicate the benefits of FAWCO Foundation programs such as the Education Awards and Development Grants to member clubs and their respective members.
 - 2.3. While maintaining our support for US citizens, continue exploring ways to be appealing and relevant to international clubs and non-US members.
 - 2.4. Explore ways to increase our appeal to younger members and/or potential members.
3. Continue to facilitate communication among member club presidents and FAWCO representatives – thus providing resources to encourage members to develop and sustain more successful Member Clubs.
4. Engage geographically distant FAWCO members and expand the FAWCO network by attracting and retaining American and international clubs. Increase support for the FAWCO Membership Chair for more robust membership outreach.
5. Continue the development of an informative and user-friendly website where members can access ideas, information and resources for individual and club development. Stay current with the latest available technologies and encourage the utilization of blogs, webinars and social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, throughout FAWCO to promote our programs.
6. Promote FAUSA membership to repatriating members.



2. Resolved: To work towards a better and more peaceful world and improve the lives of women and girls through global initiatives.



Recommended:

1. Champion the role of the United Nations in promoting peace and improving lives, raise awareness among FAWCO members of UN-related endeavors, and support the UN's Agenda 2030 mission through promoting the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. Increase FAWCO's engagement as a *UN Department of Global Communications and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)*-accredited NGO by working with key UN women's advocates such as *UN Women*, the *United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*, the *Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)*, and *NGO Committees on the Status of Women*.
3. Collaborate with NGOs, agencies and organizations who pursue similar goals to expand our networks and magnify the strength of our advocacy. Increase FAWCO's visibility by participating in panels, authoring/co-authoring statements and sponsoring/co-sponsoring events.
4. Increase awareness of the US stance on *CEDAW*, the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)* and the *Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)*. Advocate for the inclusion of overseas American women in VAWA and support *Cities for CEDAW*.
5. Regularly update FAWCO Global Issues Teams on developments within United Nations agencies and affiliates relevant to their team's goals and help Global Issues Teams align their work with the SDGs.
6. Regularly update FAWCO Global Issues Teams on developments within United Nations agencies and affiliates relevant to their team's goals and help Global Issues Teams align their work with the SDGs.
7. Continue active participation in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Raise awareness and encourage activism on environmental challenges facing global development and human rights, in particular as it affects women and children.



3. Resolved: To advocate for the rights of US citizens who are temporarily or permanently living abroad.



Recommended:

1. Serve as a recognized voice in Washington, DC for US citizens living overseas; work with the Americans Abroad Caucus in the US Congress, the Departments of State, Treasury, and Defense and partner organizations, to shape US legislation and regulations that address the special needs of US citizens living overseas, including voting rights, citizenship rights, taxation and banking.
2. Disseminate and provide easy access to information on overseas voter registration; promote and facilitate registration and absentee voting among our US-citizen members, encouraging active citizenship.
 - 2.1. Especially in view of the 2020 US presidential/federal elections, support and encourage member clubs in leading voter registration drives for their members and communicate the importance of overseas voter participation.
 - 2.2. Inform and educate members about their voting rights and work to dispel myths and misconceptions about registering and voting from abroad.
 - 2.3. Provide information and encourage voter registration and voting among young people (i.e., member children), including US citizens born abroad.
3. Advocate for more effective representation in Washington by providing reliable statistics on US citizens living overseas.
4. Work to mitigate the impact of FATCA on US citizens living overseas; collect information on its unintended consequences to be provided to Washington policy-makers; actively lend support to FAWCO members in situations of particular distress due to non-willful noncompliance, “accidental” citizenship or excessive financial hardship.
5. Provide workshops, webinars and other resources to empower US citizens living overseas to more effectively manage the tax, banking and legal complexities of living abroad.





6. Keep FAWCO members informed on issues arising in the US that may impact US citizens living overseas. Be eyes and ears for US citizens living abroad and aid them in being active citizens. Keep the US Issues Team healthy and active by recruiting engaged team members. Reach out to US citizen members of FAWCO to stay informed about their concerns.

7. While maintaining FAWCO's non-partisanship, encourage active civic participation among our US members:

7.1. Keep FAWCO members informed about and encourage participation in Overseas Americans' Week.

7.2. Encourage our members to be active advocates for issues affecting women and girls in the US and around the world – e.g., through writing, advocating, demonstrating.

8. Cultivate and model civility and mutual respect in ourselves as individuals and in FAWCO as a whole. As US residents abroad, we are day-to-day ambassadors within our countries of residence. We have a responsibility to be good global citizens both in our activities with FAWCO and in our everyday lives.



4. Resolved: To practice good global citizenship, especially in the areas of education, the environment, health and human rights.



Recommended:

1. Focus Global Issues Teams' efforts to promote the well-being of women and girls worldwide, provide opportunities for FAWCO members to become involved in FAWCO's work on global issues, and inform members through FAWCO's publications and website.

1.1. Education: Promote awareness of global issues in education with emphasis on equal access, literacy, continuing education, and global citizenship.

1.2. Environment: Promote awareness of the environment and the impact of climate change. Encourage responsible environmental stewardship and informed action within FAWCO, at both global and local levels.

1.3. Health: Increase awareness of women's health issues such as maternal health, the impact of traditional cultural practices and gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), non-communicable diseases, mental health and aging. Invest in improving the health of women and girls worldwide through support of the 2019-2022 Target Project.

1.4. Human Rights: Advocate for human rights for all women, engage FAWCO members in awareness and action campaigns, and leverage FAWCO's unique strength as a global women's organization to help end violence and discrimination against women and girls.

2. Promote awareness and action on global issues through active participation in the Target Program, the focus of which rotates among the four global issues.

3. Promote a culture of giving through philanthropy and volunteerism.

4. Promote issue awareness and cultural understanding in our youth to help them develop into responsible and caring global citizens. Encourage participation in the Youth Cultural Volunteers, FAWCO Youth Ambassador, UN Youth Reps and other programs and activities.

5. Encourage FAWCO members to be informed about customs and legislation in their countries of residence that affect their rights and responsibilities as international citizens living abroad. Encourage FAWCO members to participate actively in their communities and to collaborate with other organizations.

6. Encourage FAWCO members to work toward a more peaceful world by exercising respect, tolerance and consideration and modeling that behavior to others.

