



Figure 7.36 Glocalisation – global brands going local. McDonald's Mac Burrito in Mexico City

Environmental impacts

With greater movement and use of resources, the world's population is putting ever-increasing pressure on the Earth's finite resources. Environmentalists argue that globalisation is concerned primarily with economic costs and largely ignores environmental costs. Problems include:

- more transportation, which increases greenhouse gas emissions
- depletion of non-renewable resources
- TNCs outsourcing production to countries where environmental standards are less strict
- weak or non-existent controls allowing pollution of the air, land, rivers and seas
- more waste from packaging
- IMF-enforced spending cuts reducing many nations' spending on the environment
- greater movement giving a higher risk of invasive species being introduced.

7.4 Global governance

Global governance refers to the ways in which global affairs affecting the whole world are managed. In international relations generally, decisions are made by individual state governments. Co-operation is usually negotiated between countries, which agree to abide by similar rules given in signed treaties or international laws.

As the world becomes more interdependent, global economic governance is increasingly important for achieving sustainable development across all nations. This is especially true for governance of the **global commons** where **environmental sustainability** is at the forefront of our concerns, not least our utilisation of the continent of Antarctica.

Regulating global systems

In this increasingly economically integrated world, some argue that governments are losing their influence and that corporations now have more power to control resources, capital and labour.

Key terms

Environmental sustainability – A state in which the demands placed on the environment can be met without reducing the quality of the environment for the future.

Global commons – Resource domains or areas that lie outside the political reach of any one nation state.

Global governance – A movement of political integration aimed at negotiating responses to problems that affect more than one state or region.

Non-government organisations (NGOs) – Any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group with a common interest, which is organised on a local, national or international level. Sometimes referred to as a 'civil society organisation' (CSO).

United Nations – An international organisation founded in 1945 made up of 193 member states whose aim is to promote international peace and co-operation.

In response to the acceleration of interdependence between countries the term '**global governance**' is used to name the process of designating laws, rules or regulations intended to manage global systems, for example the laws governing international trade. In recent years, global governance has focused on a number of international issues:

- reducing environmental problems
- trade and investment inequities
- reduction of poverty
- human rights violations
- civil conflict
- financial instability.

International development agencies

A number of organisations take responsibility for promoting growth, stability and the development of all regions sustainably, both economically and environmentally. Many of the organisations operating internationally are connected to the **United Nations (UN)** such as the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**.