

IBFAN COMMENTS ON ZERO DRAFT : IYCF Resolution. 19.4.18

WHA71.XX Infant and young child Feeding

The Seventy-first World Health Assembly,

Welcoming the reports on maternal, infant and young child nutrition¹: “Comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition: biennial report”, ~~DELETE and “Safeguarding against possible conflicts of interest in nutrition programmes”.~~

Recalling resolutions WHA33.32 (1980), WHA34.22 (1981), WHA35.26 (1982), WHA37.30 (1984), WHA39.28 (1986), WHA41.11 (1988), WHA43.3 (1990), WHA45.34 (1992), WHA46.7 (1993), WHA47.5 (1994), WHA49.15 (1996), WHA54.2 (2001), WHA55.25 (2002), WHA58.32 (2005), WHA59.21 (2006), WHA61.20 (2008), WHA63.23 (2010), WHA65.6 (2012) and WHA69.9 (2016) on infant and young child nutrition, appropriate feeding practices and related questions; *(previously agreed language from WHA69.9, and reference to WHA65.6 (2012) and WHA69.9 (2016) added)*

Reaffirming the commitments to implement relevant international targets and action plans, including WHO’s global maternal, infant and young child nutrition targets for 2025 and the WHO’s global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020 and the Rome Declaration resulting from the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2);

Reaffirming also that breastfeeding is the cornerstone of child survival, nutrition and development, and maternal health; **ADD : Optimal breastfeeding practices have the potential to simultaneously reduce the risk or burden of both undernutrition (including wasting, stunting and micronutrient deficiency or insufficiency) and overweight, obesity or diet-related NCDs (including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and some cancers)**

Recognizing that appropriate, evidence -based, and timely support of infant and young child feeding in emergencies saves lives, protects child nutrition, health and development, and benefits mothers and families;

Expressing concern that nearly two in every three infants under 6 months are not exclusively breastfed; that fewer than one in five infants are breastfed for 12 months in high-income countries; and that only two in every three children between 6 months and 2 years of age receive any breastmilk in low- and middle-income countries; *(previously agreed upon language – WHA69.8)*

Acknowledging that achievement of the WHO global target to increase to at least 50 percent the proportion of infants under six months of age who are exclusively breastfed by 2025 requires sustainable and adequate technical and financial resources, and supportive and protective policy and regulatory interventions as well as political will;

Affirming that the protection, promotion, and support of breastfeeding contributes substantially to the achievement of sustainable development goals on nutrition and health, and is a core element of quality health care;

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Welcoming the inclusion of support for exclusive breastfeeding in WHO's 13th General Programme of Work²;

Welcoming the annual celebration of World Breastfeeding Week as an opportunity to communicate the importance of breastfeeding and advocate for the protection, promotion, and support of breastfeeding³;

Noting the absence of a tracer indicator on infant and young child feeding or on maternal and child nutrition in the current tracer indicators to monitor progress on universal health coverage⁴;

Welcoming recent efforts made by WHO to provide guidance and strengthen technical programmes⁵; Member States to improve infant and young child feeding, and protect, promote and support breastfeeding in particular, including through new guidelines and implementation guidance on the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI)^{5,6}; an implementation manual on ending the inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children^{7,8}; a toolkit on strengthening monitoring and enforcement of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and subsequent relevant WHA resolutions⁹; operational guidance on infant and young child feeding in emergencies¹⁰; updated guidelines on breastfeeding in the context of HIV¹¹; and breastfeeding advocacy materials^{12,13,14}; ~~DELETE : as well as tools to safeguard against possible conflicts of interest in policy development and implementation of nutrition~~

1. URGES Member States:

- 1) to increase **financial** investment in development, implementation and monitoring of laws, policies and programs aimed at promotion, support and protection of breastfeeding;
- 2) to **assess the policy and programs within the framework of the Global Strategy on Infant and Young Child Feeding, using the World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi) to document gaps every three to five years and initiate actions to bridge the gaps;** 2b) to reinvigorate the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI), including by taking all necessary actions to ensure full integration of the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding in efforts and programs aimed at improving quality of care for maternal, newborn and child health;
- 3) to implement and/ or strengthen national monitoring and enforcement mechanisms **that are transparent, independent, and free from commercial influence** for effective implementation of national legal and regulatory measures aimed at giving effect to the

² http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB142/B142_3Rev2-en.pdf

³ <http://worldbreastfeedingweek.org/>

⁴ <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/193371513169798347/2017-global-monitoring-report.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/guidelines/breastfeeding-facilities-maternity-newborn/en/>

⁶ <http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/bfhi-implementation/>

⁷ http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA69/A69_7Add1-en.pdf

⁸ <http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/guidance-ending-inappropriate-promotion-food-manual/en/>

⁹ <http://www.who.int/nutrition/netcode/toolkit/en/>

¹⁰ <http://www.enonline.net/operationalguidance-v3-2017>

¹¹ http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/hivaids/guideline_hiv_infantfeeding_2016/en/

¹² https://www.unicef.org/nutrition/index_98477.html

¹³ <http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/global-bf-collective-investmentcase/en/>

¹⁴ <http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/infantfeeding/global-bf-scorecard-2017/en/>

¹⁵ <http://www.who.int/nutrition/consultation-doi/comments/en/>

International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and subsequent relevant World Health Assembly resolutions;

- 4) to take all necessary measures in the interest of public health to end the inappropriate promotion **of infant and young child feeding products** foods for infants and young children, including, in particular, implementation of the *Guidance on Ending the Inappropriate Promotion of Foods for Infants and Young Children; (previously agreed upon language – WHA69.9)* **and Resolution 63.23 that calls for health and nutrition claims to be banned, and in particular ensure that there is no cross-promotion of breast-milk substitutes indirectly via the promotion of any product.**
- 5) to take all necessary measures in the interest of public health to end the inappropriate promotion **of infant and young child feeding products** foods for infants and young children, including, in particular, implementation of the *Guidance on Ending the Inappropriate Promotion of Foods for Infants and Young Children; (previously agreed upon language – WHA69.9).* **and Resolution 63.23 that calls for health and nutrition claims to be banned**
- 6) ~~to put in place preventive measures to avoid conflicts of interest with the private sector, particularly with manufacturers and distributors of foods for infants and young children~~ **REPLACE WITH "To put in place measures to ensure that any interactions with private sector, in particular with manufacturers and distributors of feeding products for infants and young children, does not create conflicts of interest for policy makers, public sector institutions and all those working in infant and young child feeding ;** to increase efforts to ensure evidence-based and appropriate infant and young child feeding during emergencies, including through adoption and implementation of appropriate legal and policy measures, inclusion of relevant measures and actions in emergency preparedness plans, capacity building of personnel working in emergency situations, and coordination of inter- sectoral operations; **to ensure that appeals for humanitarian aid stress breastfeeding's resilience and do not undermine it or promote infant and young child feeding products**
- 7) to celebrate World Breastfeeding Week as an official public health event;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- 1) to provide technical and financial support to Member States in implementation, financing, monitoring and assessment of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and subsequent relevant WHA resolutions, the guidance on ending the inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children, and the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative and to review national experiences with monitoring and enforcing relevant national legal and regulatory measures;
- 2) to develop tools for training, monitoring, and advocacy on the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding and the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative, to assist Member States with implementation;
- 3) to support Member States **in assessment of policy and programs** and establishing nutrition targets and intermediate milestones for maternal, infant and young child nutrition indicators, consistent with the timeframe for implementation of the Second International Conference on Nutrition Framework for Action and the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025);
- 4) to examine the potential for including indicators of infant and young child feeding among the tracer indicators for monitoring the coverage of essential health-care services as part of

universal health coverage;

- 5) to develop tools for training, monitoring, advocacy and preparedness for the implementation of the Operational Guidance on Infant **and Young Child** Feeding in emergencies and support Member States to review experiences in its adaptation, implementation and monitoring;
- 6) ~~To safeguard against possible conflicts of interest in nutrition programmes in implementing the WHO Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (FENSA).~~ INSERT : **To ensure that WHO Guidance calls for infant and young child feeding research, monitoring, programme planning and implementation to be protected from commercial and inappropriate influence.**