



## International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN)

Agenda Item: 19. Accelerating efforts on food safety

IBFAN, a network of 270 groups in 170 countries, supports the MMI statement and welcomes the opportunity to comment on this important topic. We appreciate WHO's work in this area, including at Codex. We have collaborated with WHO many times, including on the ongoing problem of intrinsic contamination of powdered formula.

With regard to the safety of processed foods and new technologies a precautionary approach should be taken. The risks and unintended consequences of novel food technologies are invariably difficult to assess and the task of ensuring safety standards that are truly in the public interest is easily compromised if effective Conflict of Interest safeguards are lacking.

We repeat the calls to WHO and FAO to maintain its funding to Codex. Sadly many national and regional food safety agencies are compromised and some are run jointly with corporations. This can only threaten their independence, credibility and trustworthiness. WHO is well placed to remind its Member States that food safety bodies must be publicly funded to be credible.

Indeed, the bigger the corporation, the bigger the incentive to hide problems.

Thank You

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