

Proposal for a RESOLUTION/DECISION on maternal, infant and young child nutrition for the 146th Executive Board....

The Executive Board, having considered the report by the Director-General on maternal, infant and young child nutrition, decided to recommend to the Seventy-third World Health Assembly, the adoption of the following Resolution:

The Seventy-third World Health Assembly, recalling the mandates given in resolutions and decisions on: the International Code of Marketing Breastmilk Substitutes (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), **INSERT** WHA55.25 (2002), WHA58.32 (2005), WHA59.21(2006), WHA61.20 (2008) and WHA63.23 (2010)); the WHO/UNICEF Global Strategy for infant and young child feeding (WHA55.25 (2002)); the WHO Global Comprehensive Implementation Plan on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (WHA65.6 (2012)); Ending inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young child (WHA69.9 (2016) and WHA71.9 (2018)); and Ending childhood obesity (WHA69(12)(2016) and WHA70(19) (2017)), decided to streamline future reporting requirements on maternal, infant and young child nutrition, through biennial reports **DELETE: until 2026 (to be issued in 2022, 2024 and 2026, respectively.**

Welcoming the improvement of exclusive breastfeeding rates in some countries, while noting with concern others where rates are regressing. Recalling that the exclusive breastfeeding targets should not be considered as maximum.

Recalling UN Security Council resolution 2417 that recognized that 75% of all stunted children under five years of age lived in countries affected by armed conflict, and that the use of starvation as a weapon of war against civilians (1) or as or as an unintended result of war must be strongly condemned.

Recalling that few Member States have policies (26%) and protocols (37%) that cover the nutritional needs of infants and young children during emergencies, when infants are the most vulnerable.

Recalling the UN Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, and the need for urgent, resilient and sustainable, global and national policies to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Noting with concern the increasing use of Industry-sponsored digital marketing strategies that promote breastmilk substitutes and products in violation of the International Code, reaching young women and families with messages that normalize artificial feeding, undermine breastfeeding and gather private data.

Recalling WHA55.22 para 2.4 calling on Member States *(4) to ensure that the introduction of micronutrient interventions and the marketing of nutritional supplements do not replace, or undermine support for the sustainable practice of, exclusive breastfeeding and optimal complementary feeding;*

URGES MEMBER STATES :

- 1. To ensure that legislation implementing the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and subsequent relevant WHA resolutions addresses promotion through digital social media to prevent inappropriate marketing and promotion.*
- 2. To ensure that the exclusive breastfeeding target of 50% is not viewed as a maximum at country level, especially in countries and settings where breastfeeding is a lifeline. To allocate additional financing of 4.7US\$ per child for the protection, support and promotion of breastfeeding in national*

nutrition plans.

3. *To institute sound emergency preparedness policies, that includes the protection of maternal and new born health within a framework that respects women's autonomy and supports breastfeeding and appropriate infant and young child feeding, in line with the Operational Guidance on Infant Feeding in Emergencies as well as with the best practices in maternal and neonatal care during emergencies.[2]*

4. *To ensure that cross-sectoral approaches to end malnutrition in all its forms follow sound conflict of interest policies; address the underlying and structural causes of malnutrition and guard against over-reliance on technological approaches that can undermine confidence in biodiverse, minimally processed and culturally appropriate foods.*

5. *To minimize spillover and ensure that products designed to address under-nutrition are appropriately targeted, products should not be placed on the open market, nor promoted with health or nutrition claims or cross-promoted with breastmilk substitutes. Such products should be as safe, nutritious, additive and flavour free as possible with packaging that is biodegradable and carries a prominent protective message about the need for breastfeeding to continue to two years or beyond.*

6. *To prioritize policies and practices and precautions that reduce climate change and ensure that the expansion of global food trade does not lead to loss of traditional knowledge, poorer agricultural practices and increased consumption of ultra-processed foods.*

Requests the Codex Alimentarius Commission

When elaborating standards, guidelines and recommendation for formulas and food products for infants and young children, to give full consideration to the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and WHA Resolutions that are relevant to its work and cite the Resolutions and relevant safeguards in the body of standards wherever possible.

REQUESTS THE DG

To collect data on the extent of online social marketing that violates the International Code and subsequent relevant Resolutions and support member states in legislating to end such strategies.

[1] Protocol Addition to the Geneva Convention of 12 August, 1949: Article 54 Protection of Objects indispensable to the survival of the Civilian Population. *1. Starvation of civilians as a weapon of war is prohibited.*

[2] Operational Guidance on Infant Feeding in Emergencies (OG-IFE) version 3.0 (Oct 2017) <https://www.enonline.net/resources/operationalguidancev32017>