



International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN)

Agenda Item: 22.1 WHO reform – Involvement of non-State actors in WHO's governing bodies

Thank you. The proposed Governance changes sadly reduce the chances of meaningful engagement with Civil Society. Official Status for commercial entities was never foreseen in the Constitution and is a huge leap into the dark. Corporations do not have human rights, yet they wear the same colour badges as civil society - confusing everyone. This gives them unprecedented intelligence gathering and influence and transforms their power and finances. – supposedly all for the public good. Remember that Partnerships are, by definition, arrangements for 'shared governance' to achieve 'shared goals.'

So please NO to a Global Health Forum – In 2011 in Moscow companies portrayed their weak voluntary promises as the answer to the obesity crisis. Such conclusions will NOT help inform Member States properly.

And please NO sunseting of key resolutions, especially those on marketing.

WHO must correct its faulty conflict of interest definition, safeguard its independence and its unique role as the coordinating authority in setting global health norms. What is happening now is a bad model for Member States. IBFAN and Civil society are here to help

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