

SRI LANKA

Thank you Chair

Sri Lanka notes the reports by Director General on these two agenda items

While implementing all relevant evidence based interventions as an integrate MCH package island wide, Multi-sector Action Plan for Nutrition 2018 – 2025 has been developed to support inter sector collaboration in providing services to improve nutrition in the population. The National Nutrition Policy was recently revised emphasising on mothers, infants and young children nutrition highlighting the need for strong legislation to control unethical marketing of food and beverages

The government of Sri Lanka welcomes the decision on developing guidance on regulatory measures aimed at restricting digital marketing of breast milk substitutes and to gazette the Sri Lanka Code for Promotion, Protection and Support of Breastfeeding and Marketing of Designated Products as an Act of parliament after being revised to incorporate relevant WHA resolutions.

Nutrition Profile Model has been developed for Sri Lanka with the prime purpose of being an aid to regulate the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children and empower consumers to make informed food choices. Discussions are under way to draft regulations under the Food Act in this regard.

Further a comprehensive human resource plan has been developed including capacity building on nutrition interventions. Considering the Covid-19 pandemic above capacity building programmes are converted to E-learning platforms. Ongoing monitoring is being carried through Reproductive Health Management Information System which has been digitalized (eRHMS) and incorporates MIYCN indicators.

Considering the importance of MIYCN, and legislation required to safeguard health and nutrition of mothers and children we request the WHO as the leading organization in global public health to involve advocacy among the political leadership to focus more attention on legal framework with emphasis on digital marketing required to safe guard nutrition of mothers, infants and young children.

We acknowledge the support of the WHO in assisting Sri Lanka in relation to maternal and child health and nutrition and we request more partnerships between other UN organizations and WHO in future initiatives. We look forward to the participation of member countries in this global endeavor.

**COMMITTEE ROOM A - PILLAR 03 - 18.1 Maternal, Infant and young child nutrition 18.2 WHO  
Global Strategy for food Safety Read by :**

National food control system in Sri Lanka is based on the Food Act no 26 of 1980 and its regulations. Under the food act the food advisory committee consist of the consumers and trade, sectors.. Three sub- committees, namely Regulation, Technical and Claims are in place to formulate regulations These subcommittees are represented by experts in the field and regulations are revised and updated based on scientific and evidence-based data.

One recent development to the food control systems was starting the accreditation process of the food laboratories. A laboratory subcommittee will meet regularly to review food laboratories.

Food control administration unit act as the national Codex focal point and codex subcommittees were represented by relevant fields has been established. Thus, ability to work with global partners enables to identify emerging global risks. Further the unit is the INFOSAN Emergency Contact point and responds to the RASFF alerts.

National food survey done periodically provides data on food related health risks ; last in 2021 leading to implementation of corrective measures such as identification of high-risk food items for border control with relevant stakeholders.

Food act is implemented islandwide via Public Health Inspectors and Food and drug inspectors the authorized officers reporting back to central level via a web-based system.

National food borne disease surveillance by Epidemiology unit of Ministry of Health and Medical practitioners are bound legally to report all cases yet Monitoring and evaluating process on implementation of the regulations is one of the areas to be strengthened.

Thank you