

Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly 2024

Agenda item 13.4 Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response

Honorable Chair, Esteemed Delegates

Thank you for the opportunity to address the 77th session of the WHA.

The International Lactation Consultant Association®, ILCA® urges Member States to strengthen preparedness for future pandemics so that that pregnant and lactating women and their children are not left behind in a future pandemic or excluded from vaccinations or treatments. Maintaining access to essential healthcare services during pandemics is imperative. Tailored actions should be proactively planned at all care levels to ensure continuity for breastfeeding support and no separation between mother and baby. Pandemic-related urgencies should not overshadow essential care for women, infants, and young children or compromise decent working conditions of healthcare professionals.

ILCA is ready to support Member States in the development of a resilient continuum of care for pregnant and lactating mothers and their infants and young children.