

Statement to 71st WHO World Health Assembly
Agenda item 12.6 Maternal, infant & young child nutrition
Reports ([A71/22](#)) & ([A71/23](#))

This statement is delivered by The International Union for Tuberculosis & Lung Disease, supported by the NCD Alliance and Vital Strategies.

We commend the WHO on the biennial report on progress in carrying out the implementation plan on maternal, infant & young child nutrition, & in developing technical guidance on ending inappropriate promotion of foods for infants & young children.

To accelerate progress on targets for NCDs & SDG 2.2 on malnutrition in all its forms within the Decade of Action on Nutrition, we call on all Member States to comprehensively implement actions that fight all forms of malnutrition, consider the full list of Global Monitoring Framework indicators, & report accordingly.

Protecting & promoting breastfeeding is a powerful double-duty action for governments to save lives, and forms part of a life-course approach to nutritious diets promoting health and protecting from NCDs. With months until the High Level Meeting on NCDs, civil society has had ENOUGH of profits & commercial interests being valued more than the health of the vulnerable. Policies must be protected from conflict of interest & industry interference. Protecting & promoting maternal, infant & child health through low-cost interventions, like breastfeeding & marketing restrictions, is one of the wisest investments in health & NCDs.

We supported the original consensus based resolution which underscored the importance of & need to protect breastfeeding, and called on Member States to adopt legal measures to strengthen implementation of guidance & monitoring of The Code. We regret that, akin to negotiations on Appendix III and ECHO in 2017, this proposed resolution has been weakened due to dominating influence, compromising the health of millions of children.