

Ending inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children

The Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the reports on maternal, infant and young child nutrition;¹

Recalling resolutions WHA33.32 (1980), 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), WHA55.25 (2002), WHA58.32 (2005), WHA59.21 (2006), WHA61.20 (2008) and WHA63.23 (2010) on infant and young child nutrition, appropriate feeding practices and related questions;

Further recalling resolution WHA65.6 (2012) on maternal, infant and young child nutrition, in which the Health Assembly requested the Director-General to provide guidance on the inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children cited in resolution WHA63.23;

Convinced that guidance on ending the inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children is needed for Member States, the private sector, health systems, civil society and international organizations;

Reaffirming the need to promote exclusive breastfeeding practices in the first 6 months of life, and the continuation of breastfeeding up to 2 years and beyond, and recognizing the need to promote optimal complementary feeding practices for children from ages 6–36 months based on WHO² and FAO dietary guidelines and in accordance with national dietary guidelines;

Recognizing that the Codex Alimentarius Commission is an intergovernmental body which is the principal organ of the joint FAO/WHO food standards programme and that it is the appropriate body for establishing international standards on food products, and that reviews of Codex standards and guidelines should give full consideration to WHO guidelines and recommendations, including the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and relevant Health Assembly resolutions,

1. WELCOMES with appreciation the technical guidance on ending the inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children;

¹ Documents A69/7 and A69/7 Add.1.

² Pan American Health Organization, World Health Organization. Guiding principles for complementary feeding of the breastfed child. Washington (DC): Pan American Health Organization; 2003; Guiding principles for feeding non-breastfed children 6–24 months of age. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2005.

2. URGES Member States^{1,2,3} in accordance with national context;
 - (1) to take all necessary measures in the interest of public health to end the inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children, including, in particular, implementation of the guidance recommendations while taking into account existing legislation and policies, as well as international obligations;
 - (2) to establish a system for monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the guidance recommendations;
 - (3) to end inappropriate promotion of food for infants and young children, and to promote policy, social and economic environments that enable parents and caregivers to make well informed infant and young child feeding decisions, and further support appropriate feeding practices by improving health and nutrition literacy;
 - (4) to continue to implement the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and WHO recommendations on the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children;
3. CALLS UPON manufacturers and distributors of foods for infants and young children to end all forms of inappropriate promotion, as set forth in the guidance recommendations;
4. CALLS UPON health care professionals to fulfil their essential role in providing parents and other caregivers with information and support on optimal infant and young child feeding practices and to implement the guidance recommendations;
5. URGES the media and creative industries to ensure that their activities across all communication channels and media outlets, in all settings and using all marketing techniques, are carried out in accordance with the guidance recommendations on ending the inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children;
6. CALLS UPON civil society to support ending inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children, including activities to advocate for, and monitor, Member States' progress towards the guidance's aim;
7. REQUESTS the Director-General:
 - (1) to provide technical support to Member States in implementing the guidance recommendations on ending the inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children and in monitoring and evaluating their implementation;
 - (2) to review national experiences with implementing the guidance recommendations in order to build the evidence on their effectiveness and consider changes, if required;
 - (3) to strengthen international cooperation with relevant United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and other international organizations, in promoting national action to

¹ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

² Taking into account the context of federated States.

³ Member States could take additional actions to end inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children.

end the inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children, taking into consideration the WHO guidance recommendations;

(4) to report on implementation of the guidance recommendations on ending the inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children as part of the report on progress in implementing the comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition to the Seventy-first and Seventy-third World Health Assemblies in 2018 and 2020, respectively.

Eighth plenary meeting, 28 May 2016
A69/VR/8

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