

**Statement to the 71st World Health Assembly
Agenda item 12.6 (A71/22)
Comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child
nutrition: biennial report**

Thank you for the opportunity to present this statement on behalf of World Cancer Research Fund International, supported by Union for International Cancer Control.

We congratulate the WHO on the biennial report detailing progress made in advancing the implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition, and encourage the WHA to welcome the report. Furthermore, we welcome the implementation manual developed by WHO to support the Guidance on Ending the Inappropriate Promotion of Foods for Infants and Young Children, which will help tackle malnutrition in all its forms. As the report makes clear, countries will not achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2.2 unless policies are improved, services are better integrated, coordination across sectors takes place and financial resources are increased.

Our latest Cancer Prevention report entitled, 'Diet, Nutrition, Physical Activity and Cancer: A Global Perspective', launched May 24 2018, provides Member States with the most authoritative and up to date independent evidence on cancer prevention related to diet, nutrition and physical activity, including the vital role of breastfeeding and early childhood nutrition.

As such, we are deeply concerned and disappointed that the final text of the Resolution has been significantly weakened, and greatly alarmed that the drafting committee was unable to reaffirm existing commitment to implement WHO guidance and policies. Breastfeeding promotes the healthy growth and development of the child and protects against overweight and obesity, which often tracks into adulthood increasing the risk of several cancers.

We urge Member States to scale up robust and effective interventions, protecting against conflicts of interest in the policy development process to increase rates of breastfeeding in the best interest of the child and the mother.