



Joint statement to the 146th Session of the World Health Organization's Executive Board Provisional agenda item 18, EB146/24

World Obesity Federation and WCRF International, supported by NCD Alliance & 1000 Days, welcome the reports on maternal, infant & young child nutrition & the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. At a time of rapidly changing nutrition environments & increasing double burden of malnutrition, action is vital for ensuring healthy & prosperous societies.

However, as we reach the mid-point of the Decade of Action on Nutrition, the slow progress to meet the targets is worrying. Of particular concern is the rise in overweight in under 5's, especially in Asia & parts of Africa that also experience high levels of undernutrition. World Obesity's atlas showed that no country has a better than 50% chance of meeting the 2025 target for child overweight. Progress has been insufficient, & we must accelerate action as we head towards 2025.

We make the following recommendations for Member States:

- Accelerate action to meet all the nutrition targets, implementing recommended actions to address obesity & diet-related NCDs, as well as undernutrition;
- Make ambitious, well-resourced, SMART commitments to address the double burden, using the 2020 Nutrition4Growth Summit as an opportunity to ensure policy coherence;
- Adopt legal mechanisms to strengthen efforts to implement the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, & subsequent relevant WHA resolutions, ensuring actions are not undermined by private interests.

We encourage the WHO Secretariat to support Member States by providing nutrition guidance & technical support focused on the cross-cutting actions to address the double burden of malnutrition, as identified in the recent WHO Lancet Series, as well as on managing conflicts of interest.

Finally, we invite all Member states to join us on 4 March for World Obesity Day & use it as an opportunity to commit to action to improve the nutrition & health of mothers & children everywhere.