

A57/A/Conf.Paper No 4 20th May 2004

Implementation of resolutions (Progress reports)

Infant and young child nutrition

Draft resolution proposed by the delegations of Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nepal and Palau

The Fifty-seventh World Health Assembly

Recalling Resolution [WHA33.32](#), endorsing, in their entirety, the statement and recommendations made by the Joint WHO/UNICEF Meeting on Infant and Young Child Feeding (1979) and noting that 2004 is the twenty-fifth anniversary of that landmark meeting.

Recalling resolution WHA 34.22 on the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes which stresses that adoption of and adherence to, the International Code is a minimum requirement,

Recalling also resolutions [WHA35.26](#), [WHA37.30](#), [WHA39.28](#), [WHA41.11](#), [WHA43.3](#), [WHA45.34](#), WHA46.7, [WHA47.5](#), [WHA54.2](#) and in particular, resolution WHA 55.25 endorsing the [Global strategy for infant and young-child feeding](#);

Noting Resolution WHA 49.15 which urges Member States to ensure that financial support for professionals working in infant and young child health does not create conflicts of interest;

Recognising the responsibility of industry to make full disclosure of known public health risks

Aware that several Member States have recently issued alerts to health professionals regarding the presence of pathogens in powdered infant formula and the vulnerability of neonates.

Aware that Codex Committee on Food Hygiene is revising Recommendations on Hygienic Practice for Foods for the manufacturing of foods for Infants and young Children.

Concerned that, whereas consumers have the right to full and unbiased information, health and nutrition claims have become an effective means of promoting the sale of breastmilk substitutes.

Encouraged by the progress made by several Member States in adopting legislation prohibiting commercial sponsorship of health professionals or their associations.

Having considered the summary biennial progress report on infant and young child nutrition; (1)

1. URGES Member States:

- 1) to ensure that health-care providers, parents, and caregivers are informed that powdered infant formula may be contaminated intrinsically by pathogenic microorganisms and that this information is conveyed through explicit warnings on labels; and to take into consideration other risk-reduction strategies proposed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.;
- 2) to ensure that 'false' health and nutrition claims are not permitted for foods for infants and young children
- 3) To take steps to prohibit sponsorship of health professionals and/or their associations by any manufacturers or distributor of products within the Scope of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes
- 4) to ensure that the research on infant and young child feeding which forms the basis for public health policies is free from commercial influence.
- 5) To continue their active participation in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in this area.

2 REQUESTS the Codex Alimentarius Commission to continue to give full consideration to recommendations made by the Health Assembly concerning action it might take to improve the quality standards of processed foods for infants and young children, and, within the framework of its operational mandate, to give close attention to action urgently required for the revision of standards and guidelines on labelling, quality and safety of processed foods for infants and young children.

3 REQUESTS the Director-General:

To continue taking action on the relevant recommendations of the joint FAO/WHO meeting on enterobacter sakazakii and other microorganisms in powdered infant formula.

2. to uphold the mandate of WHO for the protection of healthy and safety of infants and young children in the Codex Alimentarius standard setting process
3. to encourage and support independent research on intrinsic contamination of powdered infant formula and to collect evidence in different parts of the world.

(1) Document 57/18, section E.