



WHO's 150th Executive Board Meeting

IBFAN statement on WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety (Agenda item 18).

Read by Dr Magdalena Whoolery

- In the interests of child health and survival please strengthen the Strategy to protect infants and children from unsafe foods and feeding practices.
- Powdered commercial baby milks and ultra-processed foods provide no protection against disease and no boost to the immune system.
- Labelling must explicitly warn that such products are not sterile and may be intrinsically contaminated by pathogens and declare levels of toxic heavy metals. Their use can expose infants and young children to serious consequences, compounded by increasing antibiotic resistance and risks from climate change.
- Toxic chemicals in such products, water and feeding equipment put children at risk of cumulative chemical exposures when they provide their major source of nutrition.
- To help ensure public trust and credibility, Food safety Systems must be free from commercial influence, and there should be greater protection and support for breastfeeding, that provides anti-infective agents and immune factors to build the immune system.