

## WABA STATEMENT

20 November 2014



World Alliance for  
Breastfeeding Action

### WABA celebrates the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

In 2013, nearly 3 million newborns died within the first month of life. 75 percent of this number died in the first week. Most of these deaths are preventable.<sup>[1]</sup> The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) cements the basic right of a child to adequate nutrition.

In reflecting on the last 25 years since the convention was first entered into force, the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) believes that although there have been significant improvements in terms of the rights of the child, infant mortality remains a serious issue. In 2013, the UN Inter-agency Group estimated that about 17,000 children under five died each day.<sup>[2]</sup>

Under Article 24 of the CRC, a child has a right to adequate food and nutrition. All governments have an obligation to ratify this convention and give effect to these rights by ensuring basic knowledge of nutrition, advantages of breastfeeding and sanitation.<sup>[3]</sup> This convention echoes the ideals contained within the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1976).

WABA promotes, protects and supports breastfeeding in order to uphold the rights of the child. This work includes promoting breastfeeding in emergencies,<sup>[4]</sup> maternity care, women's rights to appropriate and necessary neonatal care<sup>[5]</sup> and the overall benefits of breastfeeding to both mother and child.

Anwar Fazal, Chairperson Emeritus of WABA, stresses that "Breastfeeding is not just good health and good nutrition. It is good economics and good ecological practice. It is about food security and it is about human rights." In conjunction with the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CRC, WABA joins ILCA in calling for the ratification and implementation of this convention, and celebrates the development of the rights of the child.

[1] Based on WHO's fact sheet on child mortality, from <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs178/en/>

- [2] Based on the 2014 report on Levels and Trends in Child Mortality, from [http://www.childmortality.org/files\\_v17/download/UNICEF%202014%20IGME%20child%20mortality%20Report\\_Final.pdf](http://www.childmortality.org/files_v17/download/UNICEF%202014%20IGME%20child%20mortality%20Report_Final.pdf)
- [3] See <http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>
- [4] In accordance with the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict (1974)
- [5] In accordance with the International Labour Organization's Maternity Protection Convention (2000)



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**World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA)** is a global network of individuals & organisations concerned with the protection, promotion & support of breastfeeding worldwide. WABA action is based on the Innocenti Declaration, the Ten Links for Nurturing the Future and the Global Strategy for Infant & Young Child Feeding. Its core partners are International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), La Leche League International (LLL), International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA), Wellstart International and Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM). WABA is in consultative status with UNICEF & an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).

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