Sudan on behalf of the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region, we would like to thank the Secretariat for the biennial report on the comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition.

Countries affected by conflict continue to experience high levels of food insecurity, undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. The Yemen crisis is globally acknowledged to be the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. A staggering 7.5 million Yemenis, representing a quarter of the entire population, are malnourished and in need of nutrition assistance.

A new strategy on nutrition for the Eastern Mediterranean Region for 2020–2030 was endorsed by the 66th session of the Regional Committee in October 2019. We are committed to implementing this strategy. We are also committed to remaining actively engaged in open, inclusive and transparent discussions on current gaps at country level, and we request technical support from all three levels of WHO in the areas of food systems, nutrition surveillance and the promotion of healthy diets. We welcome the suggestion to streamline future reporting requirements on maternal, infant and young child nutrition.

Despite the efforts, Sudan is far from achieving five out of the six global targets for the plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN). Stunting remains high at (35.69%), anemia among women stands at (15.79%), low birth weight as high as (32.30%), overweight at (6.27%), and wasting at (14.10%).

Sudan calls on the WHO to provide needed technical guidance to finalize the development of the MIYCN plan, and to re-establish the nutrition surveillance system with more emphasis on quality of data and strengthening the monitoring and supervision of nutrition interventions. We urge the Secretariat to support the country on the implementation of the recommendations of the Global Nutrition Monitoring Framework on data collection, analysis and reporting on anthropometric indicators for children under 5 years of age.
Sudan shares the concern raised by the Bangladesh regarding the use of digital marketing strategies that promote breast milk substitutes and products, as referred to in paragraph 36 of the report. Sudan therefore supports the proposal by Bangladesh for an amendment of the decision in paragraph 41 of the report to include a request to the director general to collect data and prepare a comprehensive report to understand the scope and impact of digital marketing strategies for the promotion of breast milk substitute and develop guidance to assist member states to address any promotion of BMS that may not be in accordance with the international code of marketing of breastmilk substitutes and subsequent relevant WHA resolutions.