



152nd Session of the Executive Board, WHO

Bangladesh statement
Item 18: United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025)
Date: 3 February 2022

Thank you, Madam Chair.

The world is passing through a trying time with the rise in extreme poverty. While we are loud and clear on human rights for all, we remain apathetic at our fellow human beings across the globe who go to bed hungry.

The countries which are highly exposed to the impact of climate change and conflicts within and beyond their territorial boundaries, count on imported food to a great extent. Therefore, it would be exigent to ensure that the foods are rich in nutrients – particularly, in case of imported items.

In view of the above, on the action points for WHO, we would suggest the following:

First, to take leadership role to ensure that global food trading standards follow WHA health recommendations;

Second, to strengthen Codex standards on formulas for babies;

Third, to promote normative measures to ensure accountability to nutrition;

Fourth, to promote breastfeeding to uphold the fundamental values of humanity; and

Fifth, to redouble efforts to make people aware of the harmful impact of ultra-processed food as well as of high sugar, fat and salt content food.

Now we would reflect upon the actions for the Member States. A fair and rule-based trade regime is essential to ensure nutrient-rich food for all. Hence, considering nutrition as a cross-cutting subject, the Member States need to engage WTO, UNICEF, FAO and WHO at the same time for a coordinated approach to implement the normative measures and course of action.

I thank you, Chair.
