

RESOLUTION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
RÉSOLUTION DE L'ASSEMBLÉE MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ
РЕЗОЛЮЦИЯ ВСЕМИРНОЙ АССАМБЛЕИ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ
RESOLUCION DE LA ASAMBLEA MUNDIAL DE LA SALUDFORTY-THIRD WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

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WHA43.3

Agenda item 17

14 May 1990

PROTECTING, PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING BREAST-FEEDING

The Forty-third World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions WHA33.32, WHA34.22, WHA35.26, WHA37.30, WHA39.28 and WHA41.11 on infant and young child feeding and nutrition;

Having considered the report of the Director-General on infant and young child nutrition;

Reaffirming the unique biological properties of breast milk in protecting against infections, in stimulating the development of the infant's own immune system, and in limiting the development of some allergies;

Recalling the positive impact of breast-feeding on the physical and emotional health of the mother, including its important contribution to child-spacing;

Convinced of the importance of protecting breast-feeding among groups and populations where it remains the infant-feeding norm, and promoting it where it is not, through appropriate information and support, as well as recognizing the special needs of working women;

Recognizing the key role in protecting and promoting breast-feeding played by health workers, particularly nurses, midwives and those in maternal and child health/family planning programmes, and the significance of the counselling and support provided by mothers' groups;

Recognizing that, in spite of resolution WHA39.28, free or low-cost supplies of infant formula continue to be available to hospitals and maternities, with adverse consequences to breast-feeding;

Reiterating its concern over the decreasing prevalence and duration of breast-feeding in many countries;

1. THANKS the Director-General for his report;

2. URGES Member States:

- (1) to protect and promote breast-feeding, as an essential component of their overall food and nutrition policies and programmes on behalf of women and children, so as to enable all women to breast-feed their infants exclusively during the first four to six months of life;
- (2) to promote breast-feeding, with due attention to the nutritional and emotional needs of mothers;
- (3) to continue monitoring breast-feeding patterns, including traditional attitudes and practices in this regard;

