

Republic of Singapore

Agenda No. 25

Maternal, infant and young child nutrition

Written Statement

Singapore thanks the Secretariat for the report and commends WHO's progress in realising the comprehensive implementation plan on maternal, infant and young child nutrition.

2 Childhood obesity remains an area of concern in Singapore. To effectively address these challenges and achieve lasting impact, we must move upstream with interventions that begin before conception and continue through childhood.

3 Gestational diabetes is a significant risk factor for pregnancy-related complications, childhood obesity and diabetes. To improve identification and management of women with gestational diabetes, we have updated our care guidelines for healthcare professionals. We have also expanded online educational resources to empower expectant parents with knowledge and tools for better diabetes management during pregnancy.

4 Recognising the importance of early feeding practices for optimal growth and development, Singapore published our first set of Guidelines for Eating and Feeding in Infants and Young Children up to two years. These guidelines provide healthcare professionals, parents and caregivers with evidence-based recommendations to help children cultivate healthy eating habits from infancy, with specific nutrition goals and feeding milestones. We have also expanded breastfeeding and lactation support services in primary care settings to promote exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months of life.

5 In January 2025, Singapore launched Grow Well SG, a national health promotion strategy to enhance preventive care and inculcate healthier lifestyles in children. Under this new strategy, starting from age 5, children will receive personalised health plans with lifestyle prescriptions that include actionable steps to build healthy habits. There will also be online resources to support families in fostering a healthier environment with their child at home.

6 Singapore welcomes WHO's evidence-informed guidance on school food and nutrition policies as we enhance nutritional support in schools. We have updated the guidelines for our Healthy Meals in Schools Programme to reflect the latest nutritional recommendations for sodium and Nutri-Grade for sugar-sweetened beverages. To ensure children have access to healthier food options, we have expanded support for

canteen vendors through provision of training, healthier recipes and assistance in purchasing lower cost healthier ingredients.

7 Through these comprehensive measures, we aim to create supportive home and school environments that positively influence children's dietary habits and establish foundations for lifelong health.

8 Singapore supports WHO's continued efforts to improve maternal and child nutrition. We stand ready to share our experiences and work with WHO and Member States to accelerate progress towards achieving the 2030 targets. Together, we can build a healthier future generation.

9 Thank you.