

73RD SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY – RESUMED

Australia's written statement on Agenda item 15

Australia thanks the Secretariat for the update on matters considered by the Executive Board, and notes the importance of making progress on healthy ageing, maternal and child nutrition, and food safety.

Australia appreciates the Decade of Healthy Ageing and the broader work undertaken by the World Health Organization (WHO) to improve the lives of people as they age, their families and the communities they live in. Supporting people to age positively is a priority for Australia.

We support the vision for the Decade, for everyone to live a longer, healthier life, and the areas of focus outlined in the Decade's actions and activities. We remain ready to progress the implementation.

Australia fully supports ongoing activities by the WHO and Food and Agriculture Organization to reduce the burden of malnutrition at the country level, regionally and globally. We recognise the need for a holistic, interdisciplinary and inclusive approach to nutrition, and in fostering a supportive environment for the implementation of comprehensive food and nutrition policies.

The promotion and protection of breastfeeding is critical in overcoming malnutrition - including in Australia, where our efforts are being guided by an enduring National Breastfeeding Strategy endorsed by all Australian Governments in 2019. We support the revised draft decision and note that further review of the current evidence and work to understand, the scope and impact of digital marketing of breast-milk substitutes is required.

Lastly, food safety is an essential element of public health, and effective food safety interventions play a crucial role in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. We were pleased to co-sponsor the resolution on accelerating efforts on food safety, adopted via silence procedure in August 2020.