

**Statement of Slovakia at the WHA73<sup>rd</sup> session**  
**Geneva, 9-14 November 2020**

**15.2. Maternal, infant and young child nutrition**

Chair,

Slovakia would like to thank for the WHO continuous work on the agenda of maternal, infant and young child nutrition, in consultation with member states and to welcome the Report and expresses the willingness to support decision and any other important initiatives to strengthen the agenda.

Improving the nutrition of pregnant mothers, breastfeeding and early nutrition is important to protect children from childhood obesity and to reduce the risk of other NCDs during life course.

Slovakia developed recently a clinical guideline to implement BFHI initiative in cooperation with WHO. We face some challenges at local level, for example: inappropriate marketing of breastfeeding substitutes; introduction of clinical audits in BFHI hospitals related to certification and quality and safety improvement; necessity to increase the access to human milk banks but also to lack of human resources for support to mothers and new-borns.

We agree with report EB146/24 point 8 that only slow progress has been made in increasing breastfeeding. Moreover, we face many challenges specifically in the WHO EURO region and Slovakia thanks WHO EURO for its support and inputs.

Slovakia highlights therefore the important proposed actions:

- Need for further WHO guidance to the countries national initiatives to promote breastfeeding
- Streamline future reporting requirements on maternal, infant and young child nutrition to 2030 and beyond
- Promote multi-sectoral actions to address underlying determinants (including commercial and social determinants) of maternal, infant and young child nutrition
- Monitor marketing of breast milk substitute according to WHO code including digital marketing
- Work further on policies to monitor and restrict marketing of unhealthy foods to children.

Finally, Slovakia would like to express its readiness to support this important agenda.

Thank you, Chair