



COMMITTEE B
STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**AGENDA 15: REVIEW OF AND UPDATE ON MATTERS CONSIDERED BY
THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

15.2: MATERNAL, INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD NUTRITION

Thank you Chairperson, the Republic of Zambia aligns itself with the statement made by the Kingdom of Eswatini on this agenda item under pillar 3.

Zambia puts a premium on issues of maternal and child health, and this is expounded in the country's strategic documents. The current National Health Strategic Plan focuses on 10 legacy goals, with goal number one focusing on reducing maternal and child morbidity and mortality. Goal number nine points towards halting and reversing the incidence of non-communicable diseases which have been noted to be on the rise; with the trajectory of mortality due to NCDs beginning to bypass those of communicable diseases in recent times.

The general trends in the proportion of infants 4 months and below, who are exclusively breastfed is encouraging. We also acknowledge the many advances that have been made in the management of diseases such as HIV, which have made it possible for many of our mothers living with HIV to safely breastfeed.

Chairperson, inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children has been a big challenge in the fight against malnutrition in countries such as Zambia, particularly with the many advances in marketing strategies using various technologies. Zambia, for instance, despite recording a decline in most childhood forms of malnutrition, has experienced a decline in infants exclusively breastfed in the first six months of life, from 73% in 2013, to 70% in 2018. At the same time, the country has seen an increase in nutrition related non-communicable diseases, including in children, which could, in part, be attributable to inappropriate feeding practices of infants and young children as a result of advertising.

It is for this reason, chairperson, that Zambia supports the adoption of the decision contained in document EB146/20.

I thank you