

PLENARY 11: CLOSING SESSION



PERFORMANCE BY PANTOMIME MUMS

Nona: Good afternoon, this is an output of our workshop on props making and acting. We will be asking the audience to participate. Please bear in mind that we did not have a lot of practice time. We will present several challenges that have become clear during this conference. So –

When I say “Poverty”, all of you should say “No Money!”

We have distributed several bottles with beans... please shake them when I signal you to shake the bottle.

This side will say “shhhhhh...”

That side will make any kind of noise... clapping, etc.

We will now start the presentation that is done by some of the delegates at the Global Forum II on breastfeeding. Let’s give them a warm round of applause (presentation

– people clap, make noise, chant “breastfeeding”). “This is our commitment that we will promote, protect and support breastfeeding.

Nomajoni: Thank you, pantomime mums. We can see this was a global collaborative effort.

I would now like to call on the programme coordinator – Ted and Sarah who will give us comments on the Forum.

Ted Greiner: This is a rare opportunity. It is unfortunate that it is so rare – but that is the way the world works. Most of you know that the HIV community seems to have enough money for two or three conferences every year with registration fees at least as twice as high as ours that attract thousands of delegates – and most of you know also how much difficulty and struggle there was putting this together – both for all of you, and for us. For us this has been almost a dream come true – which has finally come to fruition. We have seen that there is a crying need for



some kind of forum to bring together all of the issues that we have been discussing this week – public health, nutrition. By definition, Public Health Nutrition does not take any funding from the infant formula industry, which is the obvious place to get money if you want to do something with breastfeeding. WABA stands strong. Most of you have signed the WABA endorsement form. This statement that states that you agree with the principles that WABA is founded upon among which is that you will not take any support or sponsorship money from companies that are covered in the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. As you know, it has been six years since the last WABA Forum. This is the second one. Earlier today, someone mentioned the third Forum. All of the eyebrows of the WABA secretariat went up at that point. At this moment, I think it's the last thing they want to hear about – but I think at this point we will all give them a break for a while before we begin to bring it up seriously as an idea. At the same time, I think it has been a very valuable week. We hoped that this would not just be another meeting. We hoped that in addition to offering opportunities for information sharing, we hoped you would find opportunities for networking and skill building. In some cases, we hoped that this Forum could take us further than we could get alone or through e-mails in pushing certain agenda, and developing certain issues and policy statements – and we hoped that there could be some concrete outcomes.

Our thinking as a movement, or a community, would progress, and we hoped to be at a different position at the end of the Forum than we were at the beginning.

My feeling from some of the feedback from some of you is that those dreams may have been fulfilled. Please do fill in the evaluation forms that we will eventually give you. Let us know what you think. You can do so anonymously so that you can say exactly what you think. It is very important to us – and many of the aspects of this Forum were based on the feedback from the last Forum. We were

particularly concerned that we could provide a forum where difficult and controversial issues could be debated and ways ahead identified. HIV and breastfeeding as the right of the mother and infant were two examples of that. In both cases, substantive progress was made during the past week. Much progress was also made in the WABA UNICEF colloquium.

More amazingly, not only did we make progress on those issues, but as far as I can tell, there have been no casualties and we are all still friends. I think we deserve to congratulate ourselves on that. We have made a lot of progress on some very difficult issues and have done it in a very gentle, womanly and gentlemanly way.

The most amazing thing to me during this week has been the amount of work, energy, active involvement and expertise that I have experienced has come from you. In most meetings, the experts get up in front and convey their expertise to the eager listeners who run out and implement something and make use of that expertise. Those of us who feel like experts have certainly learned that there are 300 experts here. Anything that has been achieved during this week has been achieved by the energy, the time and the sacrifice of an enormous group of people – you all are familiar with the core facilitators who have put in an incredible amount of time over the past months. Even you have been disciplined, have kept time during the meetings, put in time in the late evenings, not get as much sleep as you're used to, and I'd like to close by saluting you. Thank you very much for a great week.



MEETING THE CHALLENGES AND MOVING FORWARD

Closing Address by Anwar Fazal, Chairperson

Nomajoni: We now call upon Dr. Anwar Fazal to give us the address on the challenges and the way to move forward to the future.

Dr. Raj Anand: When our honorable minister came, and I found out that her name was Asha, she took me home. My wif's first name is Asha. Respected Madam, this is Asha and my daughter in law and this is our grandson. May I have the privilege to offer you this book? This book, helping mothers to breastfeed, has been written by Felicity Savage. She wrote specially for Africa. We adapted it for India. Now is my privilege to introduce a very dear friend, Dato' Anwar Fazal, the WABA chairperson. I am 68 years old, Anwar is 61, but he is my role model. Dato' Anwar Fazal is a founder and prime mover of over a dozen local and global citizen's movements including the Consumers Association of Penang, the Malaysian Society of Transparency and Integrity, Health Action International, Pesticide Action Network, International Baby Food Action Network, and the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action. He is the former president of Consumers International, which is where I first met him and he inspired me with his real commitment to the cause of the consumer, and the Environmental Liaison Centre International. He founded the World Consumer's Rights day, on 15 March, World Breastfeeding Week (Aug. 1-7), World Migrants Day, celebrated on 18 December, and World Wetlands Day celebrated on 2 September each year. Anwar is a

recipient of Right Livelihood Award, popularly known as the Alternative Nobel Prize. He also is the recipient of the United Nations Environmental Programme Global 500, and the Activist of the Year Award from Ralph Nader's magazine "Multi-National Monitor." Ladies and Gentleman, and respected Honorable minister, it is my proud privilege to introduce to you my very dear friend, Anwar Fazal.

Dato' Anwar Fazal: Thank you very much Raj for those kind words, your excellency, distinguished guests, brothers and sisters – good meetings, successful meetings, are about three I's

– Information, Inspiration and Initiatives. This Forum was a particular joy, because it gave us an abundance of these 3 I's. The world faces a triple crisis – a crisis of equity, a crisis of economics, and a crisis of ecology. However, underlying this triple crisis is the real crisis – which is always the crisis of Leadership, of Integrity, of Good governance.

Society is like a fish; it rots from the head down. The real axis of evil, for those of us who are working on these issues, are the leaders who promote a world of violence, a world that is manipulated, and a world that reeks of waste. The triangle of hope, the alternative, the one that requires real leadership, are those who are engaged in promoting a world in balance and harmony – in stewardship and trusteeship and of accountability – accountability to the people and to the future – and to many of us, accountability to the almighty. The struggle, to promote, protect, and support breastfeeding is a struggle between this axis of evil, and this triangle of hope.

What do we do – where do we go? The great civilisation of China gave us one framework: Acupuncture. To succeed in this, you need a good map, you need pressure points, you need good needles and you need good skills. All those we have in our movement. The Map of Action Areas, which we developed over the last week, is indeed a formidable one. In listening to all of the discourse over the last seven days, I would like to share with you a kind of summary that I did while I was listening to you. Someone thought I was the rapporteur because I was taking so many notes, but I was just trying to juggle all of the ideas that you were putting forth. Listening to all of these, I would



like to share with you what I thought were the key areas. I came to 21 major action areas – since the theme of this Forum is the 21st century – I titled it “The 21 Action Ideas for the 21st Century: Agenda 21-21.” It can form the platform for our work together. Let me list them very briefly.

1. This has been pre-eminent – the whole issue of Human Rights and Responsibility. Our work must be rooted in the fundamental right to breastfeeding. We have a statement which has been prepared that we hope will be underlying our work in the future.
2. Fostering women's empowerment and mother support – this must be central to our work.
3. Insuring food security – of which breastfeeding is the first.
4. Ensuring Community Participation – involving, listening and working with the people. As Marta Trejos always reminds us – real people and real issues –
5. Involve the young - any movement that wants to have a future must involve all three generations. We want a movement that nurtures leadership, not followership.
6. It involves the culture of integrity – so much of the undermining of breastfeeding was done with corruption, to sponsorship, to conflicts of interest – these are cancers that we have to fight.
7. Holding the authorities accountable to the Code that we have developed. The Code and Subsequent resolutions, as Annelies and Joo Kean always remind us, SR – the Code plus SR – Subsequent

Resolutions – and other global resolutions, from ILO. On the wall is a breastfeeding monitoring scale. Have a look later – see where your country is – if it is doing well, right at the top, point to it and take a picture – if it is not doing well, point down, and take a photograph home. It will make a very powerful picture for you to use in your own campaigning.

8. Everywhere we feel capacity building must be done in a big way. Audrey Naylor has dared us to dream and build up a new spirit in the many areas in which we need skills – medical and political. Margaret reminded us that the textbooks on the world need to be changed, to be revolutionised – and I hope a project will emerge to look at all the textbooks and change them.
9. The ninth challenge is the challenge of creativity. Any movement that has a future – that has a life-one that is full of creativity and joy – we are a force for happiness – and that happiness must be reflected in our work, our materials, and our methods. Our spirit of joy must be in our work. We must do it assertively and aggressively. Bonnie Davis, from Canada, Anne-Marie from Austria, and many others from the Philippines and from Africa have reminded us how you can use culture and performance for our work. We must do more of that – because with that we will like with the soul and spirit. With that, we will move the agenda forward.
10. Working on the AIDS pandemic. A new partnership between the breastfeeding community, the AIDS

community, and the UN system has emerged as a part of this Forum, and we all must work together to make this work. As Annelies reminded us, we don't like this name PMTCT – we are going to change it – we will make sure that we will change it – and let's act on it.

11. The 11th challenge is of body burdens – of toxins that challenge the inner limits of our bodies, and the outer limits of mother earth. Our partnership with the environment movement is a shared one, and this has begun with this movement. Breastfeeding is a supremely and deeply ecological act gives us a shared platform.
12. The score of globalisation. Together we must work for what UNICEF and the UN has committed itself at the recent UN session “a world fit for children.” Next year, WBW is taking the theme of Globalisation – and what better a slogan than “A world fit for children?”
13. Genetic Engineering – cloning . Playing with genes is like playing with life and fire – will challenge us as milk will be targeted by this industry.
14. The strategy of massive environmental, economic and conflict-based refugees. This is a humanitarian challenge that we cannot ignore. Lida showed us modules that we are developing for this. This work is critical, for there are 35 million people in this situation at the moment.
15. Militarisation, at the time when the world needs resources for health and food for education, we are leaping into a massive expenditure in this field. All of our spiritual traditions talk of turning towards into plowshares. Militarism seems to be the emerging religion. It depletes sources and depletes life.
16. Equity – social justice systems globally are essential. If the world's greatest, powers have no respect for social justice and equity – what role model for the local goons and the local tyrants? The UN itself must rethink its increasing and worrying links with business. We have initiated a petition to call on UNICEF to rethink its involvement with McDonalds. This petition is around. Please do sign it. We would like to send this message to UNICEF.
17. The 17th challenge is the Internet challenge. It has brought us closer than ever before – but at the same time it is separating many people who do not have access to this – and who will be disempowered

by the reliance of this new technology. New types of advertisements will reach you right in your home, and viruses will capture you without you even knowing it. New kinds of propaganda can emerge out of this. We have to learn how to make this a tool of empowerment. There is a people's communication charter movement – email us and we will let you know how you can make this internet revolution work for the people.

18. The challenge of the “unhealthy” business – the massive corporatisation, privatisation, and liberalisation - what I call the CPL Virus – will need a countervailing response. The People's Health Charter, developed as a participate process globally provides us with a powerful framework about this – Meera reminded us that all the debt reduction policies need a very strong response from all of us to ensure that breastfeeding has its place in that framework.
19. We were reminded that business operates, and re-emerges and reshapes itself. Annelies reminded us to be alert – that our battle with the business in terms of products is not a standstill battle - there will be new products, new services, new territories that will challenge us as she says both downstream and upstream.
20. The twentieth challenge is a challenge of the workplace. Employers and the whole nature of work and its relationship to nurturing and family – all that will have to be transformed. Maternity and paternity leave legislation.
21. This one underpins our work and begins at the beginning – the challenge of humane birth and humane care – as Mary Kroger and Adik Levin constantly remind us – the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative extended to the mother friendly hospital initiative, and the community initiative – GIMS – and now GIFS – the global initiative for father support. All these must be strengthened and is among the pillars of our work.

This agenda, 21-21 is indeed a formidable one. But never forget that the world can be changed. If you dare, and if you dream, and if you do – it can happen. The WABA Steering Committee, our partners, when they meet the next few days at our meeting – will certainly look at this very full agenda – and we will work with you into transforming it into an action plan for the future.

When I spoke at the opening of the Forum, I shared with you the idea of breastfeeding as a beautiful five-petal flower – representing medicine, nutrition, ecology, economy and deep deep love. That could be the basic breastfeeding charter. I would like now to share with you a framework for transformation – a five-pointed star for hope and power. These five points are:

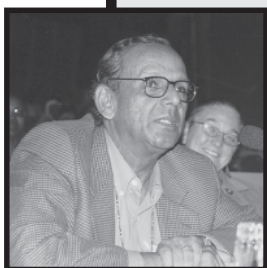


1. The power of one – never underestimate the power of the individual. The little actions done by little people all the time that make changes in the world – in the breastfeeding movement, remember everyone of us is a miracle worker
2. The power of many – build upon the power of alliances and networks as we have done at this forum – breastfeeding links with ecology, with gender, with justice, with workers rights – health – consumer and many other movements. We have to link with those causes if we want them to link with ours – we are linked. It is one struggle – one very often seamless struggles. Our many partners, IBFAN, LLLI, ILCA, Wellstart, Linkages, and the many others that are working in the national context, they make us feel something so special in social movements – and that is the strength of family and the strength of community. So remember the power of many.
3. The power of the halo – the thing that many important people and institutions have. We can draw from our spiritual traditions, in Islam for example, breastfeeding is mentioned in the Koran, a very important aspect of nurturing a family – and we can draw from all the other spiritual traditions. What George Kent has called the instruments of accountability – the instruments that have been developed universally by all of our governments to the UN agencies. These are halos that we can use. Make them real and make them work for us.
4. The power of information. There is now very easy access to good research and good communication. We must make that very central to our work. Denise Arcoverde, who operates the WABA website has shown how we can use this communication system. I hope we will become better connected. She is going to work on a virtual museum and celebration of breastfeeding. Maybe we will even have a virtual breastfeeding university.
5. The power of success. Every victory, however small – celebrate it and share it. Good work inspires more good work.

So, brothers and sisters, remember the real axis of evil, remember the triangle of hope, remember agenda 21-21, remember the five-petal flower, remember the five pointed star. Remember these five things as we journey together in our struggle to promote, protect and support breastfeeding. To mark this new stage of our journey, WABA will be initiating a World Breastfeeding Charter – a popular, participatory mobilising tool that we hope can uplift our spirit as we sing the same song, with our heads, with our hearts and with our hands. A'salaam wa leikum brothers and sisters. Peace be upon you – inner peace, peace with other people, and peace with mother earth.

Thank you very much.

PLEDGES FROM WABA GLOBAL FORUM II



"We pledge on behalf of ILL France to launch the UNICEF Golden Bow Initiative in France during World Breastfeeding Week (30 September – 6 October 2002) ."

Giselle Laviolle and Juanita Jauer Steichen, ILL France

"I, Einat Ophir, a public health nutritionist from the Israeli Ministry of Health, pledge I will do everything in my power to persuade policy makers in Israel to have Mother-Baby Friendly Hospitals and to follow the code of marketing of breastmilk substitutes."

Einat Ophir, Ministry of Health, Israel

"I pledge to do everything in my power to promote breastfeeding and influence everyone in my new office block/building is informed and influenced to also promote and practice breastfeeding."

Joyce Chanetsa, Zimbabwe

"I'm committed to within two years, having worked out so WABA can have a first world conference working with GIFS and initiatives from it."

Per Gunnar Engblom, ABF, Sweden

"Together with Dr. Adik Levin, Estonia, I pledge to formulate a program for humane neonatal care and an assessment tool for Baby Friendly Neonatal Care (together with a working group of experts) ."

Kerstin Hedberg Nykuist, University Children's Hospital, Uppsala, Sweden

"I pledge to renew commitment to WABA, distribute the Women and Work Kit, continue my distribution of World Breastfeeding Week Kit, and report to our membership regarding the proceedings of these two colloquia via newsletters and annual conference as part of mobilisation."

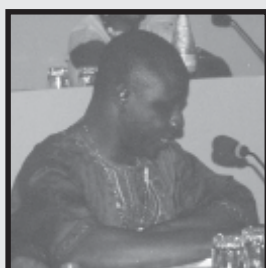
Sallie Page-Goertz, ILCA, USA

"I pledge to distribute at least 15,000 WABA 10 Links for the Future small folders."

Dr. C.R. Banapumath, BPNI, India

"I pledge to change "Birthing Practices" in Maharashtra amongst obstetrician nurses by networking. It is so essential for the process of exclusive breastfeeding."

Dr. N.B. Kumta, BPNI, India



PLEDGES FROM WABA GLOBAL FORUM II



"On behalf of saving Newborn Lives Initiative (SNL) under Save the Children Federation (USA) Malawi Field Office (SCF/USA), we together with our implementing partners, will continue to strengthen the promotion, protection and support of the early initiation and exclusive best breastfeeding practices. We will also advocate to the Governments the implementation of the Code and the Global Two Forum Resolution."

Isabella W.A. Msolomba, SNL/SCF (USA), Malawi

"I, Dr. Vasant Khadev, pledge to foster at least 20 branches in the next three years to promote protect and support breastfeeding in Mahasashtra State in India."

Dr. Vasant Khadev, BPNI Mahasashtra, India

"On behalf of Save the Children US in Nepal and myself, I pledge that we will empower mothers and care givers at the district level regarding safe delivery and early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months."

Meena Sharma, SNL-SCF, Nepal

"On behalf of the National food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC), I pledge to push for the finalization of the drafting of the National Code on The Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes into law and to ensure that enforcement and implementation of this law commenced by early next year."

Dilly Kayuba Mwale, NFNC, Zambia

"On behalf of the Ethiopian Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, I pledge to make many hospitals in Ethiopia Mother-Baby Friendly in the coming few years.

Abdulhamid Iselika, ESOG, Ethiopia

"I pledge on behalf of Breastfeeding Awareness Network, Nigeria, to work hard in the next three years to bridge the gap between perceived breastfeeding norms and optimal breastfeeding practices, which accounts for an estimated 25% of deaths of children under one year."

Gloria Okunbo, Breastfeeding Awareness Network, Nigeria

"I pledge that I will work hard to make sure that Nursing Colleges and universities include mother Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative in their curriculum in South Africa."

Ntombazana Makuriana, Effective Care Research Unit, South Africa

"On behalf of Margaret Kyenya-Isabirye's recommendation, I pledge to develop a breastfeeding r-test and expand the breastfeeding curriculum for the birth dullah training so those supporting women at birth will be able to provide accurate and up to date breastfeeding information."

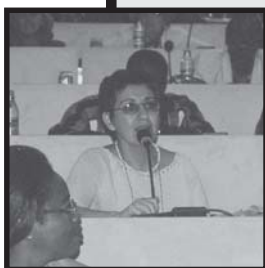
Rae Davies, USA

"On behalf of Tanzania and my own behalf, I pledge and commit that more emphasis will be placed on Government, NGO, Local Communities, and International Organizations to protect, promote and to support effectively the breastfeeding worldwide."

Dr. Dihenga A.O., MOH, Tanzania

"I pledge to Strengthen the links among the birth and Breastfeeding Advocacy networks including: CIMMS, BBI, RELACAMUPAN, Childbirth and Breastfeeding Foundation of Thailand, ARUGAN, and others, so that humanized birth and

PLEDGES FROM WABA GLOBAL FORUM II



breastfeeding are promoted, protected and supported."

Mary Kroeger, WABA Health Care Practices Task Force, USA

"Moi representate des Ongs Feminines Congolaise de las sante promets de vulgariser les resolutions de la douxiemme conferece internationale organisee par WABA en Republic Democratic du Congo." (*I represent the Women's Congolaise Organisation of Health, promise to put into action the resolutions of the WABA Global Forum II, in the Democratic Republic of Congo.*)"

Mme. Bernadette Bakafolla, Congo

"I pledge that I will henceforth try best to incorporate components of Breastfeeding in the next three years, Rolling Plan of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MCH&FW) which starts from July 2 or 3 and influence Government to do everything possible for this and at my personal level to do everything possible to promote, protect and support the breastfeeding movement in Bangladesh."

Dr. Jahir Kadin Ahmed, MCHS, Bangladesh

"Lida Lhotska, on behalf of all colleagues in GIFA/IBFAN Europe, pledges to support from our base in Geneva, advocacy efforts so that we have a strong WHA resolution on issue of sponsorship and conflict of interest, continue our work through the CRC committee, and as a member of Maternity Protection Coalition."

Lida Lhotska, GIFA/IBFAN, Europe

"I pledge to get funds from one or more organizations in my country to support the full cost of the participation for a few persons in my

country and in one other developing country to the next WABA Global Forum.

Monik St-Pierre, Canada

"I pledge to draft and hopefully produce a WABA Activity sheet on Involving youth in the Breastfeeding Movement."

Rosha Forman, WABA, Malaysia

"I wish to make a pledge on behalf of Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation to start a new dimension of Breastfeeding movement on the basis of what I have learned from this forum."

Dr. M Q Talukder, Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation, Bangladesh

LINKAGES pledges its continued support to protect, promote and support breastfeeding and optimal feeding practices for the survival, growth and development of the child and to protect, promote and support the health and well-being of the mother. We will also continue to promote integrated infant feeding and HIV/AIDS counseling into existing health care and community services. In addition, we pledge to continue to be a resource for technical and program information.

Linda Sanei, LINKAGES, USA

"I pledge to continue to protect, promote and support breastfeeding in Swaziland. And that when we intensify the IMICI program I will ensure that we use a bottom up approach involving all the women/stakeholders to ensure that infant feeding options are acceptable, affordable, assessable and safe. All these are feasible in Swaziland as we are a small homogenous country."

Nomvuyo Shongwe, Swaziland

PLEDGES FROM WABA GLOBAL FORUM II



"On behalf of :

- 1) The Uganda Paediatrics Association
- 2) The Uganda Women Doctors' Association

I pledge to promote, protect and support breastfeeding issues as well as to ensure endorsement of the WABA form at our next meetings:
I) The UPA Annual Scientific Congress (Nov 2002) ;
ii) The Medical Women International Congress due to take place in Kampala, Uganda 23-27 March 2003."

Dr. Sabrina Bakeera-Kitaka, Consultant Pediatrician, Kampala, Uganda

"On behalf of myself and Latin America, we pledge to do outreach to women's environmental, anti-injustice and free trade agreements in Latin America."

Marta Trejos, Costa Rica

I pledge to distribute at least 1000 of the small brochures WABA produced "10 links to the Future." I request that WABA secretariat to have thousands and thousands of copies made to distribute to thousands of people. If I am not given 1000, I will work to reprint more in India."
BENI, India

"On behalf of the South East Asian Region, I pledge to move the breastfeeding charter with a participation of the communities together with the policy makers and we will bring forth all of our resources to bring back the power of traditional healing foods."

Ines Fernandez, AARUGAN, Philippines

"I pledge on behalf of the IBFAN Asia Pacific that I will work hard to reach every country of the region that every country in the region has an individual IBFAN network in the next five to 10 years."

Arun Gupta, BENI India

"I pledge to give everybody in this room a pair of Socks - not because it's cold in the Simba Conference room - but because we, the International Code Documentation Center will continue to produce the state of the code by country which is one sock - a blue one. Another sock, which is the state of the code by company - is a red sock. On behalf of my organization, we will continue to monitor and record and provide you with the documents which we call SOCKS - so I am sure you will never forget those."

Annaliese Allain, IBFAN, Malaysia

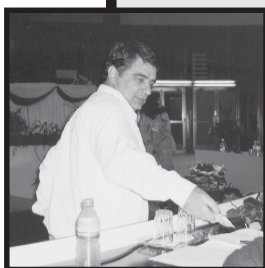
"I pledge to tell the women's NGO's who are working with women's health and women's rights in Asia Pacific, as well as our partners in other parts of



the world, what an excellent and inspiring Forum this was. I will tell them that there are a number of potential partners and issues with which we can work commonly together. I am going to communicate this in our proactive information service and see how we can also support the breastfeeding movement in the future."

Rashidah Abdullah, AAROW, Malaysia

PLEDGES FROM WABA GLOBAL FORUM II



"I pledge to be an active part in the formulation of a national Action Plan to promote, protect and support breastfeeding. The one part of it is holding a national conference in the Philippines on breastfeeding."

Nona Castillo, ARUGAAN, Philippines

"I pledge, on behalf of IBFAN Africa, that I will strengthen efforts to protect, promote and support breastfeeding, using the framework of the global strategy of Infant and Young Child Feeding. My special pledge is to bring in young people and men into this network. Next year, IBFAN Africa is having a regional meeting – that will be the start of these efforts."

Pauline Kisanga, IBFAN AFRICA

On behalf of the International People's Health Council, a network that is concerned with the politics of health, we pledge to work closely with WABA on helping with the analysis of those things, those political issues, that so clearly affect breastfeeding around the world.

International People's Health Council (Latin America)

"I pledge to add some topics to the Counseling Course right now until October.

1. HIV and Breastfeeding,
2. Birthing practices and breastfeeding,
3. Globalisation and world trade organisations and
4. Supporting mothers during and after the natal period.

I also pledge to do two topics of research work next year: community research with the help of self-help mother support groups into breastfeeding

and complementary feeding and
2. In hospitals around birthing practices and fetal outcome."

Dr. K.P. Kushwaha, India

I pledge to do everything within my power to get renewed commitment to breastfeeding back in my home country, Nigeria.

Irene Olumese, Nigeria

I pledge to continue to work with the mothers and children of depressed communities promoting breastfeeding and brining into the fold the rest of the families and the fathers in everything that it does and says.

Dr. Parbati Sengupta, BENI, India

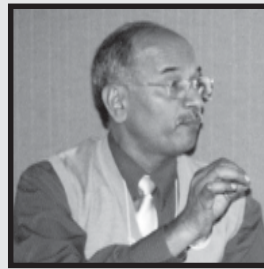
I pledge to influence the neo-natologists so that they will commit themselves for breastfeeding and I will also see to the fact that the breastfeeding principles are put into practice in Tamil Nadu. I am a neonatal intensivist, and will take a pledge that all the neo-natal nurseries in India will only do exclusive breastfeeding even when the baby is sick.

Dr. Jayam, India

I pledge to do even more to get the breastfeeding room, core restroom, at IMCH, Uppsala University – for the few breastfeeding mothers that we have from time to time, but also for the students who attend our courses. My friend sitting next to me, Funny Kondolo said she also pledges to get her workplace breastfeeding friendly. I hope many other people will do this as well."

Amal Omer-Salim, Uppsala University, Sweden

PLEDGES FROM WABA GLOBAL FORUM II



I pledge, on behalf of the Thailand Nutrition Association, I pledge that I will convince all the members of the association that I will protect, promote and support breastfeeding in the country.
Sum Chai Dum Veigh, Thailand

"On behalf of CIN Kenya, and on behalf of the Africa Codex Working Group, I pledge that we will enhance our efforts towards insuring that the agents of globalisation do not adversely affect breastfeeding. This includes our work at Codex, and also enhances our efforts at elaborating and demystifying the impact of globalisation on breastfeeding."
Codex Information Network, Kenya

"I pledge on behalf of my organisation that works towards the promotion of women's rights in the area of HIV and AIDS and also on behalf of the community of women living with HIV, that we will provide correct and gender sensitive information to the community of HIV positive women, as well as young girls on breastfeeding, as well as create networks and alliances in support of breastfeeding both within the country and in the region as a whole."
Barbara Dimbvetz, Zimbabwe,

"I pledge, on behalf of LILLI, to continue to serve as distributors of WBW materials and celebration of WBW and also to do all that we can to promote and decimate information on GIMS and to support the coordination of this important work."
Mimi De Maza, LILLI, Guatemala

"On my own behalf, and on behalf of Tanzania Food and Nutrition Center, I pledge to strengthen the implementation of our national infant feeding

programme including agenda 21-21, which was presented by Anwar Fazal."

Dr. Wilbard Lorrie, Tanzania

"On behalf of the African Community, I pledge that we will take agenda 21-21 forward to the 22nd Century. I thank them for all the support they've given me over the past 3 years."

Nomajoni Ntombela, WABA, Zambia

"I pledge on behalf of myself and ARUGAAN, that we will follow up the commitment that the department of education gave to us the other month, and I pledge to follow up that we will do breastfeeding in the curriculum up to grade six. We will provide them with all the materials to teach the young about breastfeeding while they are still young about breastfeeding so that they grow up to be responsible citizens."
Elvira Esquerro, Philippines

"I pledge that I will enroll at least 300 more super-duper breastfeeding heroes!"

Bonnie Davis, Mama's Remember Productions, Canada



VOTE OF THANKS



Beth Styer: First I want to start out by thanking people – our collaborators, CRHCS, UNICEF, Ministry of foreign affairs, SIDA and TFNC. Thank you for the collaboration. Along with that I want to thank all the key partners, IBFAN, ILCA and LLLI.

Now I want to thank people: Mofota, Bibi and Dr. Shongwe – there are gifts for these people – Bibi, Mofota, and Dr. Shongwe.

The Minister of Health for Tanzania, Dr. Katherine Sanga. TFNC, Dr. Willbard Lorrie and Hilda Massano.

From UNICEF, Tanzania, Meera Shekar and Bertha Mlay.

From UNICEF Eastern/South Africa Regional Office, Urban Jonsson and Olivia Yambi.

From WABA SC, Nomajoni and Michael Latham.

At this time we want to thank the regional coordinators:
Africa: Pauline Kisanga
Asia-Pacific: Arun Gupta
Latin America and Caribbean: Marta Trejos

As the Forum Programme Co-Coordinator, it gives me pleasure to thank all the Core Facilitators:
Arun Gupta, Audrey Naylor, Pauline Kisanga, Annelies Allain, Joo Kien, Amal Omer Salim, Pamela Morrison, Marta Trejos, Lakshmi Menon, Rebecca Magalhaes, Elisabeth Sterken, Mary Kroger, George Kent, Rob Vincent, Miriam Labbok, Jacquie Nutt, and Per Gunnar Engblom. We would also like to take a photograph. Please continue to communicate with us, and we look forward to working with you for Agenda 21- 21.



The other person we would like to thank is Ted Greiner for being such a supportive and dedicated programme coordinator. Thank you.

For the Media Team and Website – Victor Chinyama, Georgina Mtenga, Lakshmi Menon and Denise Arcoverde. Thank you.

There are many people who have helped us – one of them is Jean Pierre Allain. He helped to coordinate a team of interpreters – we want to thank Blanche, Michael and Michelle Kiting. Some of the participants have been doing it amongst themselves. I'd like to call upon Annelies to receive Jean Pierre's award.

We would like to thank the performing groups: Children's Choir, Hilda Massano, Mr. Mella, Bibi (Dance Group), Ines Fernandez and Nona, and Bonnie Davis.

The staff and volunteers from our collaborating organisations and also individuals: Faith McGumbo, Mr. Mella, Mary Kibono, Charles, Lutifret Nelly, Walbert McGurney. You may or may not have met them, but they have been ushering you, photocopying for you, and making sure you have your papers. We have volunteers: Doreen and Cindy Omondi.

Both UNICEF Offices have offered their staff – Elisabeth, Julieth, Alli, and Michael. Our friend who have been driving us, who work late and at odd hours – let us give them a big round of applause.

We would also like to thank volunteers from the participants: Dr. Thorkild, who has offered to video and help with LCDs, Nam (Julie Kyenkya) we also have 2 teenagers, Flo and Mary Anne Kern, and Jacqueline who has been doing all the photocopying.



Finally, we would like to thank our own staff from the Secretariat – Lakshmi, Satnam, Mun Tip, Vi Vien, and Rosha. (Greeted by deafening applause). When I suggested to our team that we would like to invite them, they said no. But I thought it was good to give a formal acknowledgement. Thank you very much team.



We would like to thank the AICC team – we have a few challenges, but we have managed as always. Bushbuck, Catering School, Novotel, Impala, etc.

I also want to extend a warm round of applause for WABA Co-directors, Susan Siew and Sarah Amin.

Michael Latham: It is my honour to thank two extraordinary young women from Malaysia who lead WABA, co-directs WABA, and does every thing for WABA. We have a Steering Committee, but the Steering Committee just sits back and lets these two wonderful women, Sarah Amin and Susan Siew, lead this great organisation. Also, you can see from what has happened here how two young dedicated people can make a difference to all of you – and all of you make a difference to the world. I think they deserve a standing ovation.

(Ines gives them a T-shirt of the WABA Global Forum Bangkok tee-shirt). Thank you for all the sleepless nights, hard work, postponing the baby, postponing the marriage, for the sake of WABA Global Forum 2.



Sarah: This is a truly touching moment, it was supposed to come as the last item. I want to thank the WABA steering committee on behalf of Susan and myself, for giving us this opportunity to play a leadership role and helping to bring together these different friends from all over the world. Without this opportunity to work in the WABA Secretariat, I believe both myself and Susan would not have been able to share our passions and our gifts with you. So, we would like to honor the three outgoing WABA SC members who are ending their term on the 31 December 2002. We thank these three special persons who have given WABA and the SC their skilled leadership and Vision, Passion and Energy to shape WABA's work and mission. Each of these persons have brought to WABA very unique gifts and strengths: Michael Latham, the most senior member of the SC, we recognise him for his science, his courage, and his unwavering stance on ethics of the medical community on sponsorship. He has also been a father figure for the secretariat and never stopped short with his kind words for the secretariat, even in the most challenging circumstances. We invite Ted Griener, the new incoming steering committee member to please present a token of appreciation.

Next we have Elisabet Helsing. Elisabet has brought elegance, grace, wisdom and determination to WABA's work. We are encouraged by her unrelenting pursuit for ensuring high quality technical knowledge and for her ability to clarify issues. We recognise Elisabet not just for her vast global experience, but also for her commitment to many local groups. May

we please invite Elisabet Helsing, and Felicity Savage, the next incoming SC member, to present a token of appreciation.

Last, but not least, is Anwar Fazal. We want to express our heartfelt gratitude and thanks to Anwar Fazal, who is WABA's chairperson, and the closest SC member to the Secretariat in Penang. Anwar has been our inspiration and our mentor. He has worked with Susan for 20 years and for me at least a decade. Anwar has given us the vision of being inclusive, and always linking our work with other social movements. He has also always challenged us to be as creative and as hard working as possible – but always with joy and happiness. Anwar, we thank you for guiding us, for caring for us, and for supporting us. May we invite Raj Anand as the new incoming SC member to present

the token of appreciation to Anwar.

Susan: Finally, there is one very important person that we have not forgotten – who has challenged us throughout all these years ever since WABA was born, I would like to invite Anwar Fazal to give a token of appreciation to Urban Jonsson from UNICEF. We would like to share that Urban gave us the first grant to kick off fundraising efforts. This whole Forum, the planning started two years ago, but the funding came very late. We are thankful that when it did come, it came together. That was in February when we decided we would go full steam.

We want to thank the programme coordinators, Ted Greiner and Sarah Amin, for pulling all of this together.

Thank you.

Behind the Scenes at the Secretariat



CLOSING REMARKS

by Dr. Steven Shongwe
Regional Secretary General
for the Commonwealth Regional Health
Community (CRHCS)

Honorable minister, honorable doctor, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great pleasure for me to make a few remarks to thank all of you for a successful WABA Global Forum II. I think we all deserve a moment to put our hands together for all the delegates for the success of this Forum. Please let's give ourselves a hand. We are proud that this forum has taken place in Arusha. We appreciate that you are able to come to this beautiful part of Africa, and you are welcome again in the future. As I have said from the first day during the official opening, it is really a pleasure for us to work with our partners: WABA, UNICEF, WHO – all the partners that have contributed to the success of this Forum. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the government and the people of Tanzania for agreeing to host this important forum. Through this honorable minister, I would like to convey our gratitude to his Excellency the Vice President and to you personally for having graced this occasion.

I would like to repeat what has been said before. We appreciate the work that has been done by the coordinators, the presenters, the steering committee, and all the delegates for their excellent contributions during the discussions. I would especially like to thank all the presenters for the quality of their excellent presentations. From the few presentations that I saw, I was highly impressed with what I saw.

I would like to pledge, on behalf of CRHCS, that we will continue to promote, protect and support breastfeeding. We will support the implementation of the Global Strategy on Infant and Young Child Feeding. We will continue to support IMCI activities, and programmes on voluntary counselling and testing. We will continue to strengthen our partnership with all of our partners in this region, other parts of Africa, and beyond. We welcome partnerships with anyone from another region as well and indeed those in Africa to come work with us. We would love to work with any issues of IYCF, mothers' health, and breastfeeding. Finally, I would like to appreciate the work that has been done by men in this forum. I think for the first time we are seeing men taking leadership. I am told that there is now a GIFS – I think we need to congratulate them. I also appreciate the partnership that is now evolving between the breastfeeding community

and the HIV AIDS community. We are all working together for a common purpose. We want to improve survival and development of children, we want to improve women's health, and above all, we want to contribute to quality of life for our people and for the world. I would like to repeat our condemnation of the practices of the manufacturers of breastmilk substitutes. Some of them are not adhering to the provisions of the Code. Finally, I would like to appreciate all the work that has been done during this conference. In our beautiful African language, Ki-Swahili, I say – *Asante Sana*.

**CLOSING
REMARKS**
by Dr. Wilbard
Lorrie
Managing
Director of
TFNC



Karibu –
Distinguished
Guests, ladies and

Gentlemen. I stand in front of you representing the local organising committee. I really find it very difficult when eminent speakers have already said what they have to say. I really find it difficult, but I want to reiterate what I said before during the Colloquium: we in Tanzania feel very honored and very proud that the organisers have chosen Tanzania to be the venue for this meeting. I feel very honored and humbled that you have chosen Tanzania and we are very proud. *Karibunitena, Asante sana*.

We want to thank everybody who have contributed to this – thank you to WABA, WHO, UNICEF and individuals – we want to thank people who have contributed 1 million and half a million shillings.

About the Forum, I want to say that we have all been re-energised to support, promote and protect breastfeeding. When somebody asks, what do we do with this pandemic? I think that we all had a stomachache, and dry tongues – after being asked, “what do we do in terms of breastfeeding and this pandemic?” But I think after working at this hall, that we all will walk out upright. We are very proud – and this is the best moment to protect, promote and protect breastfeeding. I think that in Tanzania, we have been told that 1.5 million children are born every year. Out of these, 75 thousand are born out of HIV positive

mothers. Look at this figure – this is only 4 percent. Now, out of this 4 percent, 25 will get HIV from breastmilk. This is less than two percent. What about the other 98 percent? We cannot cater to these few people - and we need to strengthen the number of baby friendly hospitals. This is the moment when we can really strengthen Code activities. This is a time when we are all energised – and we need to carry with us courage and a missionary zeal. I am sure that after five years, when we meet, the language will be different.

So with these remarks, I want to say, let's walk out of Tanzania, energised, with this missionary zeal. The walk may be uphill now, but after five years, we will be on the top of Kilimanjaro. I wish you all the best.

Karibu Sana and Asante Sana.



**CLOSING
REMARKS**
by Urban
Jonsson,
UNICEF/ESARO

Minister, Dr. Rose Migiro, Dr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: When Anwar Fazal came to

Nairobi two years ago and started to suggest that the next WABA Forum ought to be in Sub Saharan Africa, I was really happy. After some discussion, we agreed that Tanzania would be the place – and I really felt happy, because, as some of you know, Tanzania really is my second home country.

I feel proud and happy that Tanzania has supported this meeting – TFNC/CRHCS, and many others both nationally and locally – and that Minister Migiro is here tonight. WABA has always been important to UNICEF, WABA was created in one of the meeting rooms in UNICEF a number of years ago. I will never forget that evening. It was one of those evenings when Jim Grant and Anwar Fazal really created this special atmosphere that we can change the world. Those of you who knew Jim Grant and know Anwar Fazal, know exactly what I mean. All of a sudden, it was clear – and WABA was born.

We learned a lot in UNICEF from WABA work, and we also participated. I think it is extremely important to remember that from the beginning, we saw WABA as an organisation with great flexibility, freedom and

courage to criticise, that we simply do not have within the UN system – even if I talk about the most flexible Arm of it – UNICEF. We believe very strongly that one cannot understand or change development, if we don't start with children.

It has always been a surprise for me to constantly meet seemingly intelligent economists – who can sit and have a long conversation, who can stand up and have a very good speech, about the future of Africa, or the future of the world, without even mentioning children. We, in UNICEF, are children's people – we believe and know that poverty reduction must start with children.

Since the WABAforum in Bangkok in 1996, the world has changed. There are two things that I want to bring up. Even if the convention of the rights of the child was with us at the last WABA meeting, so much has happened with the convention and ratification that I can declare tonight that I believe firmly that according to international law practice, the convention of the rights of the child must be recognised as a piece of international customary law.

That means, my dear Americans, that you are covered by the same laws as all of the other citizens of the world, despite your government's unwillingness to ratify the convention.

The second thing is what has happened in the UN itself. After the end of the Cold War, and a very courageous secretary general (Kofi Annan) we saw how he rediscovered the chart of the UN. He said, over and over again, that the UN stands for people's justice and human rights. He declared, clearly, that everything we do in the UN has to be guided by Human rights. He was right - and we are trying. Big international NGOs like Save the Children and Care – many bilateral- are trying desperately to see what they see if they put the new glasses on and look at the world from a human rights perspective. The world looks different. We had in May a UN special session on Children, I'm sure some of you were there. That meeting of world leaders resulted in a plan of action for a World Fit for Children that Anwar referred to. Isn't that fantastic? “A world fit for Children” – it is no longer that we try to make children fit for a grim world, but that we try to make the world fit for children. This is an extremely revolutionary statement that many of my colleagues at UNICEF are actually scared of – when we are reminded that it is the world we are going to change, not the children. This leads to a global movement for and with children – which is based on Human Rights. It is therefore that I am so extremely happy to feel that

participants at this forum have really expressed themselves in supporting WABA moving in the direction of human rights. Only a world where all infants, universally, are breastfed, is a world fit for children. WABA has to be an important agent and actor in this process. I promise never to speak about Africa or within Africa, without saying anything about the greatest social catastrophe in modern history – this is the HIV/AIDS catastrophe. I am talking about the most terrible challenge that this continent and the world are meeting. I am talking about the fact that I feel I know that Africa in 20 years will not be the Africa we know today. I'm talking about the fact of a massive epidemic that is killing people, creating orphans, crashing health budgets, and ultimately threatening the very fabric of the African society – governance, peace and security. It is in that context that I am extremely disturbed when I still notice a silence among leaders. I was in a general assembly last Monday, a day on the new partnership for African Development.

There were three ministers' foreign affairs who spent 11 minutes each, talking about the challenges in the futures of their countries. They did that without even mentioning HIV AIDS. I met the ex-president Massira a few months ago. He was president in Botswana. He said, Urban – I feel that if there were a tribunal for presidents that really did not make the right choices, I should be the first to be brought to the tribunal. He admitted that when he was the head of the country. He did not recognise HIV/AIDS. Botswana today has 35% Adult HIV infection rate. That is much more than the average rate of disease during the Black Death in Europe. I have always said that we agree in the world not to accept impunity in War. In this very building in which we are sitting is a historical process going on – the Rwanda Tribunal – the murders during the genocide in Rwanda are being brought to court. That would not have happened without the United Nations. If we do not accept impunities in war, we shouldn't accept impunities in peace. I look forward to a tribunal where the leaders are brought to court for the wrong choices, and allowing things to happen as they are happening today. I include those actors who break the natural law of breastfeeding.

Let me end by saying that it is now time and opportunity to mobilise people and really prepare not just a world health assembly position – no, I think we should aim higher. We should work for the preparation

of an optional protocol for the convention of the rights of the child, and set out on infant and young child feeding. Countries will be mobilised to ratify this – maybe we can create this tribunal one-day. WABA must play a role in this process. I will end by saying that WABA has to play an essential role in the world fit for children. To be absolutely clear, I see WABA as being an important part of that dream “A world fit for Children.”



**CLOSING
REMARKS**
by Elisabet
Helsing, WABA

Urban Jonsson is always a hard act to follow– Honorable Minister, Friends – I speak on behalf of the favorite society of WABA – and I'll be brief. Anwar said that things change – the world changes, WABA changes – change is painful, to all – change processes in periods of chaos and periods clarity – periods of despair, and of the most joyful optimism.

WABA, like all modern networks, is set up to handle change and diversity. Sometimes we succeed, and sometimes not. WABA, when we set up this forum, we and our partners, whose contributions we value very much, thought of the forum really in the original sense of being a market place where you exchange. What we did was to shift our cyber space, our normal mode of communication, with eye to eye and skin to skin contact. I think that is quite necessary – to put change into reality.

It is also my personal goodbye to WABA after six years on the Steering Committee. Grandmothers should give way to the young. I will do as my countryman advises “use the force that you have on the nearest demands.” But I know, that once you have started thinking globally, there is no way back. The human rights commitment is a case in point. Let that also be WABA's greeting to you – upon returning from WABA's second Global Forum. It is still relevant to act locally and think globally – it was never more important. Use the human rights instruments for that.

Thank you.



**CLOSING
SPEECH**
by Dr. Rose
Migiro, Minister
of Community
Development,
Children and
Women Affairs,
Tanzania

Professor Anwar Fazal, Chairperson of WABA, Madam Nomajoni Ntombella, and Dr. Raj Anand, co-Chair persons, Dr. Urban Jonsson, UNICEF Regional Ddirector, Dr. Steven Shongwe – Regional CRHCS, Mr. Patric Seree – Executive Director of the AICC, and Dr. Kathring Sanga, local organising committee, Dr. Willbard Lorrie, Managing Director of TFNC, and our two distinguished delegates – Mr. Larry from the Philippines, and the one sitting up there – invited guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I feel greatly honored to have been invited not only to officiate the closing ceremony for the WABA Global Forum II, but also for having been allowed to sit in and listen to all that you heard today.

I understand that this is the second forum. The first one, having been held in Bangkok in 1996. It is indeed significant that the forum is being held in Africa. As you have all observed, I think the challenges that we are facing in the area of breastfeeding in the 21st century, are more than relevant to Africa than other continents. May I express my gratitude to the organisers – WABA, UNICEF, TFNC and CRHCS, for having organised this Forum.

Dear participants, the theme of this Forum is Nurturing the Future, Challenges to breastfeeding in the 21st century. It is, I believe, a very timely and relevant theme in this fast changing world. In this point in time, challenges to breastfeeding are as many as they are diverse. You have had a good five days to discuss and share experience in the key issues that relate to breastfeeding. I understand that this Forum has brought to Arusha over 300 participants from all over the world with different backgrounds and specialisations.

I am told that not less than 70 countries are represented here – this is just half of all the countries in the whole world. We in Tanzania are very happy that you could make it to Tanzania - and we thank WABA once again for having chosen this as the venue for your forum. I hope you have enjoyed your stay in Arusha. I know, that after such a busy schedule, you might wish to hurry

back home. This is quite understandable – but I advise you to explore the beauty of this touristy town, and the National Parks around it. I was delighted to hear that there is free passage.

Dear participants, I gather that in the last couple of days you have had time to review problems that lead to inadequate breastfeeding. I have been informed that some of these are delay in initiating breastfeeding, which I believe occurs shortly after delivery, use of prelacteal feeds, low rate and short duration of breastfeeding, and circumstances that do not afford lactating mothers adequate care.

While these are real and practical problems, they are at the same time requiring practical solutions. With WABA having been formed more than a decade ago, I believe that you are now in a position to strategise in a meaningful way of how to deal with these problems. I could tell this from the pledges that you made.

Indeed, the problems that you have are not insurmountable. Experience from countries represented here must have had an impact of the strategies that you have adopted in this forum. I strongly recommend that you build networks and experience sharing activities that will sustain exchange of knowledge and expertise. Coming from a government ministry, I have no doubt that grassroots and social set ups offer an excellent opportunity for your organisation to work together with various communities to address some of the problems that lead to inadequate breastfeeding.

We all know that delay in starting breastfeeding arises out of a misleading belief that mother's milk, immediately after delivery, should be discarded because it is only meant to cleanse the body, and is therefore unfit for the baby. On the contrary, that is the most nutritious substance for a newly born. This is a question of unfounded belief. The challenge before us is to involve community leaders of all types in dealing with this problem. I believe that traditional birth attendants, as well as political leaders, especially at the grass roots, can play an important role, especially if professional bodies like WABA are ready to engage them constructively.

Similarly, the use of prelacteal feeds has something to do with the fact that a new born has to taste some of the traditional food of their tribe. This is done while the mother's milk is pressed and thrown away. This can surely be eliminated if we involve not only mother and clinics, but communities as a whole. Once these

problems are tackled, it would be, in my opinion, relatively easier than to deal with the problem of low rates and short duration of exclusive breastfeeding as well as inadequacies in taking care of lactating mothers. I believe that community based initiatives have a great potential in addressing the challenges that face breastfeeding today.

Together with any other community based initiatives that will be deemed appropriate, legal and regulatory framework is of absolute importance as well. This is a challenge that the government of the UNITED republic of Tanzania has taken seriously, and it shall continue to do so. It is in this line that the government put in place the food control of quality act in 1978, and other pieces of legislation that relate to importation and quality of food stuffs. The most significant of these is the national regulation for the marketing of breastmilk substitutes and designated products, under the food control of quality act of 1978. These regulations were made as a result of the government's commitment to support and protect breastfeeding.

It is in that regard, that one of the fundamental duties that the regulation enjoys the national food commission to do is to take appropriate measures to encourage, protect and promote breastfeeding. Not only this, but also to give appropriate feeding practices where infants and young children are concerned.

Dear participants, looking at the background of WABA, I am in no doubt that one area of your pre-occupation is activism for breastfeeding. However, it the rule of activism, that wherever there are obstacles, there are also opportunities. In our bid to nurture the future and address challenges to breastfeeding, we should as well examine opportunities that will enable us to protect, promote and support breastfeeding. In all earnest, breastfeeding is an issue that is multi faceted in nature. We cannot discuss it only from the point of view of health. Emerging issues, like HIV/AIDS pandemic, rising levels of poverty, and the feminisation of poverty, trade imbalance between developed and developing countries, environmental degradation and many others, are serious impediments to development, especially countries of the third world, like Tanzania. Nonetheless, these may, at the same time, provide us with an opportunity to protect, promote and support breastfeeding. This, I believe, all of us can do – not only with WABA, but with other groups that deal with issues that do not directly relate to breastfeeding. Is it not possible, for instance, to propagate breastfeeding as a way of addressing the problem of low-income

families, so that available resources can be diverted to other basic needs. Similarly, environmental groups could advocate preservation of the environment in reference to the adverse effect of plastic and metal baby formula containers on the earth. To crown it all, breastfeeding is an infants human right. So, dear friends, problems? Yes. Obstacles? Yes. But we should rise to the breastfeeding challenges in the 21st challenges by seizing the opportunities that these obstacles open up. I would, therefore, urge WABA to strengthen the networks that you have established, to increase information and experience sharing so that you can lean from each other – not only how each of the various countries has addressed the various issues, but how opportunities, arising from negative or positive developments, can, or have been, used. I would also strongly advise WABA to ensure that breastfeeding is taken as a cross cutting developmental issue in the same way that gender and environmental issues are critical development imperatives. In my opinion, it is only in this way that we will be able to draw in a lot more groups and sections in our society who do have a stake in the action for breastfeeding – but we do not know who they are, or how they can use it to complement their activities. I'm confident that if we do so, we shall indeed, together, be able to effectively nurture the future by meeting the challenges to breastfeeding in the 21st century. Before I conclude, allow me, dear participants, to thank all the people that helped to make this forum a reality. These are the WABA, UNICEF, government of the Netherlands, SIDA, USAID, UNFPA and Azam enterprises. I would also like to thank all sponsors of individual participants and the business community. I know a lot of work has gone into the nitty gritty of organising this forum - special thanks should go to CRHCS, National Organising Committee of Ministry of Health – which is TFNC. Coordination and logistical efforts must have taken up a lot of your energy. But you made it. Congratulations.

Last, but not least – we thank our hosts – Arusha Municipality for their hospitality – and may I also thank Dr. Raj Anand for the beautiful book. I will treasure it, and I think I will use it to, as my pledge, to advocate for breastfeeding.

I wish you all a safe journey home – *bon voyage* – it is now my pleasure and privilege to declare the WABA Global Forum II Officially Closed.

Thank you.