



Committee members working on the text of the Innocenti + 15 Declaration; Miriam Labbok, Felicity Savage and Sarah Amin from the WABA delegation.

International), La Leche League International (LLLI) and the World Council of Churches. Among the individual founding members were Professor Derrick and Patrice Jelliffe of the University of California, Dr Michael Latham of Cornell University, Dr Audrey Naylor of Wellstart International, Pat Young of the US World Food Day Secretariat, Dr Felicity Savage of the Institute of Child Health, Dr Penny van Esterik of York University, and Anwar Fazal representing IOCU.

The historic founding meeting of WABA had the full support of UNICEF, in particular the then Executive Director Jim Grant and two key UNICEF advocates, Margaret Kyenkya and Janet Nelson. This led to an active partnership in the same year, which continued in the years that followed. WABA provided a platform for researchers, mother-to-mother support groups, trainers, healthcare professionals, development workers, leading international experts in infant and young child

feeding, policymakers and grassroots activists to form a mega alliance to encourage every sector to commit to protecting, promoting and supporting breastfeeding.

### "Nurture and nurturing the future"...



WABA Steering Committee with IBFAN-GIFA friends, Geneva, 1994.

*"Last month I read Adam Fifield's book on Jim Grant, "A Mighty Purpose: How Jim Grant Sold the World on Saving Children". In it, he explores how Jim Grant brought people and projects together to solve problems like child malnutrition. As UNICEF geared up its child immunisation, growth monitoring and oral rehydration projects, Grant challenged NGOs to create something that would mobilise global support for breastfeeding. Over lunch, in a New York diner, WABA was born. Through the creation of diverse coalitions with partner groups, WABA continues to work around the edges where the challenges to breastfeeding are greatest: gender equity, father support, human rights, and food security.*

*I have spent the last few years trying to build on WABA's phrase, "nurturing the future". Building on lessons learned from my Southeast Asian colleagues, I have attempted to tease out the meaning of nurture in diverse languages in the region and beyond. Breastfeeding is at the core of 'nurture' and without vigilance, we are in danger of losing some of the customs that support nurture under conditions of modernity. I have tried to develop this argument in a recently completed book called the 'Dance of Nurture' with my colleague, Richard O'Connor. In it, we use anthropology to unpack the importance of nurturing*