



The Fourth World Conference was an important achievement as it was the first time in the global history of the women's platform that breastfeeding issues were covered in a number of significant articles including:

- promoting public information on the benefits of breastfeeding, the Code and enabling mothers to breastfeed by providing legal, practical and emotional support;
- protecting women working in conditions of environmental and occupational health hazards, with attention to pregnant and lactating women;
- provision of relevant information and education to women and health workers about HIV, pregnancy and breastfeeding;
- promoting the harmonisation of work and family responsibilities, including breastfeeding; and
- other more general yet relevant and supportive provisions.

“Beijing was worth the effort, the time, the yuan/dollars, the wet clothes, the prep-coms, and whatever else we invested in it over the past two years. We gained useful language in an important international document, respect among women's groups, and a sense of cohesiveness amongst all of the breastfeeding advocates who worked together. Whether it was LLLI or IRH or ILCA or IBFAN or whatever, when we joined forces as “the breastfeeding lobby” or WABA, we set aside our individual objectives, pooled our talents, agreed on our targets, and then made tremendous headway. I was proud of us!”¹¹

– Karlyn Stummer, ACTION, USA

For the 20th Anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action in 2015, WABA secretariat collaborated with the UN Breastfeeding Action Team (UNBAT) to participate at the 59th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW59)/Beijing+20. The team produced a Joint Statement and Call for Action to the CSW 59, Supporting Women's Right to Breastfeed. See: <http://waba.org.my/pdf/statement-csw59.pdf>). It called for the meeting and government

11. Amin, Sarah. Nurturing the Future: our first five years. WABA, 1996.

12. The team of UNBAT and other allies consisted of representatives from the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM), International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA), the Carolina Global Breastfeeding Institute (CGBI) and the 1000 Days Campaign group.