

rights. WABA had a significant presence at the first People's Health Assembly in December 2002 in Bangladesh as well as visibility through workshops, exhibits and mime performance. This connection led to more national cooperation when appropriate with local PHM country partners, including in Malaysia.

“Breastfeeding is about peace and justice. It is the natural, universal and peaceful way of nurturing our children. In a world often wracked by injustice, violence and war, breastfeeding can be a sentinel of peace – inner peace, peace with other people and peace with the environment.”

– Anwar Fazal, Chairperson Emeritus of WABA and Right Livelihood Award Recipient, 1982

Food Security, Nutrition and the Right to Food

A few other major topics where important steps were taken and/or significant progress was made have been in the areas of food security and nutrition, and the Right to Food.

After over 20 years since 1992, WABA once again participated in the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) co-organised by FAO and WHO and contributed substantially to the Statement with a Call for Action to position breastfeeding as a crucial part of the nutrition debate. The WABA Statement to ICN2 asserted that the Protection, Promotion and Support of Breastfeeding is a human right, and is a vital component of any concrete response that governments and relevant UN agencies intend to take in tackling the critical problems on nutrition faced by certain countries. (See: <http://www.waba.org.my/pdf/statement-waba-icn2.pdf>)

WABA also advocated at the ICN2 Public Interest Civil Society Organisations (CSO) Meeting and presented its Statement to the Director of WHO's Department of Nutrition for Health and Development and to the Director General of UN FAO. This contributed to and possibly influenced the CSO Statement that was eventually developed and presented at the main ICN2 with the following inclusion: "Breastfeeding is the first act of food sovereignty in all its dimensions. The support of breastfeeding and optimal young child feeding must be an integral part of health care systems and health policies, and free from commercial influence. We call upon Member States to ensure that the Global Strategy on Infant and Young Child Feeding guides policy and programme action. We also call upon Member States to protect children from aggressive and inappropriate marketing of breast-