

milk substitutes by adopting the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and relevant WHO resolutions, and establishing effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. Micronutrient interventions and supplementation should not undermine breastfeeding and local bio-diverse culturally appropriate sustainable foods, and be in-line with government nutrition policies”.

On 11 December 2013, WABA attended the Round Table Discussion with Dr Olivier de Shutter, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food during his official visit to Malaysia. WABA facilitated the presence of Kamariah Mohamad Alwi, leader of the Malaysian Breastfeeding Peer Counselling Association, to take the message that “breastfeeding is the right of all children and mothers; and that humankind’s first food, breastmilk is critical to child survival”. It was another achievement for WABA when the Special Rapporteur and his office affirmed their support and promotion of breastfeeding.

Linking Breastfeeding to Human Rights, Right to Food and Social Development

From a human rights approach it was a natural progression for WABA to move from the discourse of breastfeeding as the first food and food security to breastfeeding as part of the Right to Food. From 2009, WABA participated in the Right to Food Network via engagement in the Right to Food and Nutrition Watch Consortium. WABA is one of the 10 partners of the Watch Consortium coordinated by FoodFirst Information and Action Network (FIAN) comprising of food, health, rights and development organisations such as the People’s Health Movement, Dan Church Aid and ICCO. The Consortium produces the annual journal of the same name. Since joining, WABA, with the involvement of IBFAN members, contributed several articles to the Journal on the following topics:

- Complementary Feeding: the Joint Statement on “Protecting, Promoting and Supporting Continued Breastfeeding from 6–24 + Months: Issues, Politics, Policies and Actions (2009);”
- Concerns about the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Network and engagement of Big Food and Big Agricultural companies in policy making forums on people’s nutrition (2013);
- Breastfeeding and Emergencies: support for exclusive and continued breastfeeding is absolutely critical for the health and lives of infants and young children (2014);
- People-Centered Food Sovereignty: how donations and untargeted distribution of breastmilk-substitutes and ready-to-use foods (RUFs), together with the distribution of globally marketed seed varieties discourage breastfeeding by interfering with women’s options to decide on the best manner in which to feed their children, erode local food culture, and undermine food sovereignty (2014);