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The Breastfeeding Network is pleased to add its support to the recent statement <http://www.waba.org.my/pdf/statement-waba-icn2.pdf> from the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) ahead of the second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2).

WABA believes the focus should be on helping women, infants and young children in the poorest and most vulnerable of households, particularly in emergency situations. WABA asserts that Protection, Promotion and Support of Breastfeeding is a human right and therefore a vital component of any response.

However, in many countries breastfeeding is neglected and breastmilk substitutes are aggressively marketed in violation of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. Most women want to breastfeed but many find they cannot due to social, cultural and economic barriers.

BfN support WABA in saying that ICN2 has an opportunity and a responsibility to ensure that the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding becomes universally endorsed as public health policy and implemented as the foundation of good nutrition and healthy child development in all populations.

The Breastfeeding Network support the calls of WABA to all governments and relevant UN agencies to work towards:

- Ensuring that “At least 50% Exclusive Breastfeeding (EBF) in the first 6 months”, is included as a target indicator in the post 2015 agenda, and in relevant national policy on nutrition and health.
- Ensuring that all facilities or hospitals where babies are born should implement Baby-friendly best practice standards.
- Ensuring that all mothers have access to skilled breastfeeding counselling and support, both at health facility level and community level.
- Implementing maternity protection legislation with the ILO Maternity Protection Convention C183 as a minimum standard.
- Enacting Legal provisions that fully implement the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and relevant World Health Assembly resolutions.
- Strengthening of national emergency preparedness policies and plans to include Infant Feeding in Emergencies (IFE) with regulation of donations and of untargeted distribution of breast-milk substitutes, and of ready-to-use foods (RUFs).