



International Special Dietary Foods Industries

FLOOR STATEMENT AT THE 64TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY ON
AGENDA ITEM 13.12. PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
- SHORT VERSION (2 MINUTES) -

May, 21 2011

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Delegates,

The International Special Dietary Foods Industries (ISDI) and its member companies commend the World Health Organization (WHO) for its leadership in the prevention and control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). We pledge our cooperation at all stages, recognizing that good nutrition, especially early in life, is a key driver in achieving the reduction of NCDs.

In some countries, foods that are introduced after exclusive breastfeeding can be low in essential nutrients and high in sugar and fat, contributing to both micronutrient deficiencies and excess energy intake.

Appropriate complementary foods for children can greatly improve the intake of micronutrients needed to support the growing needs of infants and young children, thereby addressing known NCDs risk factors. Targeted programs and initiatives aimed at improving the availability of iron-fortified complementary foods, such as the Women Infant and Children's Feeding Program in the United States of America, have led to the dramatic improvement in health outcomes, such as the reduction of anemia.

ISDI and its members strongly support the promotion of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life. In addition, the timely introduction of safe and appropriate complementary foods beyond six months is equally important in protecting children's health development and protecting against NCDs risk factors.

ISDI members continuously invest in Research and Development to enhance nutrition throughout the life-cycle. Our Industries' research ensures that our foods meet the highest nutritional, safety and micronutrient needs of infants and adults according to international standards, and take into consideration known NCDs risk factors.

ISDI members are looking forward to supporting Member States, WHO and the UN's efforts in NCDs prevention by developing evidence-based and comprehensive guidance for complementary feeding in a way that takes into account the expertise and capacities of all stakeholders.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.