



United Nations Children's Fund
Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance
Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia

Office of the Executive Director

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25 July 2002

Dear Friends,

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is pleased to join the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) and its affiliates in 120 countries once again, as they celebrate World Breastfeeding Week 2002. UNICEF is convinced of the health benefits of breastfeeding for both mother and baby. Exclusive breastfeeding meets all the nutritional needs of a baby for the first six months and, with appropriate complementary foods, continues to make a significant contribution to the baby's health, development, nutrition and emotional well-being into the second year and beyond.

Given our focus on integrated programmes for early child development, which in turn depend upon improved care for mother and child, the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding remains firmly at the heart of UNICEF's work. It is thus with particular pleasure that I extend these words of support to everyone involved in this year's World Breastfeeding Week, which focuses on the theme "Breastfeeding: Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies".

This theme provides a wonderful opportunity to ensure that all sectors of society hear of these important health benefits for babies. UNICEF is fully committed to continuing its work to ensure healthier mothers, children, families, and communities, making this world truly fit for children.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Bellamy", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carol Bellamy
Executive Director