IF Information Package on Global Advocacy for Prevention through Food Fortification
IF has been working with an international coalition of neurosurgeons to raise awareness of Folic Acid Fortification with the WHO with the goal of having the WHA adopt a resolution on Folic Acid Fortification.

In January 2022, the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies, in collaboration with IF and supported by the World Federation of Anaesthesiologists and the International Federation of Surgical Colleges, submitted a Statement to the WHO Executive Board in response to a report by the Director General on Maternal, infant and young child nutrition.

The statement stressed the importance of mandatory folic acid fortification of stable foods to prevent Spina Bifida and Anencephaly. Urging the WHO to support a resolution on mandatory folic acid fortification at the World Health Assembly.
World Health Assembly (WHA): The decision-making body, where the Member States come together to vote. Held in May.

Executive Board: Implements the decisions of the WHA and decides which resolutions go on the agenda for the WHA. Main meeting is in January each year. A WHO Member State is elected to serve on the Executive Board for a 3 year term. The Member State then designates a person who is technically qualified in the field of health to represent the Member State on the board.

Director General: Nominated by the Executive Board and appointed by the WHA.

Advocating to the WHO: key phrases

Several things are needed to for a resolution to pass. First of all support of multiple partners and WHO Member States as well as the support of the Executive Board in order to make it on to the agenda of the WHA.

Advocacy towards members of the Executive board is key!
## Advocating to Members of the WHO Executive Board

### Africa
- Botswana (2020-2023)
- Burkina Faso (2019-2022)
- Ghana (2020-2023)
- Guinea-Bissau (2020-2023)
- Kenya (2019-2022)
- Madagascar (2020-2023)
- Rwanda (2021-2024)

### Americas
- Argentina (2019-2022)
- Colombia (2020-2023)
- Grenada (2019-2022)
- Guyana (2019-2022)
- Paraguay (2021-2024)
- Peru (2021-2024)
- Peru (2021-2024)

### South-East Asia
- Bangladesh (2019-2022)
- India (2020-2023)
- Timor-Leste (2021-2024)

### Europe
- Botswana (2020-2023)
- Burkina Faso (2019-2022)
- Ghana (2020-2023)
- Guinea-Bissau (2020-2023)
- Kenya (2019-2022)
- Madagascar (2020-2023)
- Rwanda (2021-2024)

### Eastern Mediterranean
- Afghanistan (2021-2024)
- Oman (2020-2023)
- Syrian Arab Republic (2021-2024)
- Tunisia (2019-2022)
- United Arab Emirates (2019-2022)

### Western Pacific
- Japan (2021-2024)
- Malaysia (2021-2024)
- Republic of Korea (2020-2023)
- Singapore (2019-2022)
- Tonga (2019-2022)
## The next steps for IF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>WHO</th>
<th>IF Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continue developing materials with partners with the aim of creating a WHO resolution on folic acid fortification. Connect with members of the Executive Board</td>
<td>Advocate and raise awareness among WHO leadership on SBH and FA Fortification through engagements and statements</td>
<td>Work with IF Members to build strong national level advocacy. This is essential to build support from national policy makers of WHO Member States. Do you want to join our campaign for a WHO resolution on Folic Acid?</td>
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</tbody>
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List of acronyms

**IF** - International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus

**SBH** - Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus

**WHO** - World Health Organization

**WHA** - World Health Assembly

**FA** - Folic acid
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact IF at info@ifglobal.org

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