

# WHO Watch

WHO Watch is a project of the People's Health Movement, a global network of civil society groups held together by the vision of Health for All

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WHO Watch is a resource for advocacy, a platform for mobilisation and a people's intervention in global health governance.

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## **Statement by CMC/PHM at WHA65 on Nutrition (Item 13.3) to be delivered by Meike Schleiff of the People's Health Movement**

Thank you, Chair, for the opportunity to address the distinguished members of the WHA on behalf of Churches Action for Health and the People's Health Movement.

There is a lot which is good in the draft comprehensive implementation plan (CIP) and we welcome many of the components of the plan at the country level.

However, the plan fails to deal with the challenge of building a regulatory framework to regulate transnational agribusiness and food corporations at global and country level.

The commercial interests of transnational agribusiness, food corporations and retailers play a powerful role in shaping nutrition and malnutrition through marketing and through price relativities. The challenge of regulation must be faced.

Meanwhile new provisions for investor state dispute settlement being inserted into preferential trade agreements provide transnational corporations with powerful new defenses against regulation at both the national and international levels. This has been clearly demonstrated in the attack by Big Tobacco on the plain packaging policies of Uruguay and Australia. Resolution [WHA59.26](#) mandates the WHO to work with MS to achieve coherence across trade and health policies. This must be utilised.

Nutrition needs to be understood in the context of food security (and insecurity). More than 200 million hectares of land have been sold, mainly to transnational companies, mainly in Africa, over the past decade with widespread displacement of small producers. Meanwhile the diversion of land and grain from food to biofuels is contributing to rising food prices and jeopardising food security and nutrition. The stalemate in the Doha Development Round in the WTO leaves in place agricultural policies which have been highly detrimental to small producers in many countries.

WHO cannot address the issues of trade and the regulation of transnational industry alone but it can take a pro-active stance in working with other competent intergovernmental bodies.

Thank you, Chair.