

Declaration of the First BRICS Meeting on Human Milk Bank

We, professionals of the health sector institutions of the BRICS countries, participants of the 1st BRICS Workshop on Human Milk Bank, gathered from August 28 to 30, 2019, in the city of Brasília, Brazil:

Considering,

The excellence of human milk for the integral development of the infant and young child, as the first and exclusive food in the first six months of the baby's life, and the importance of its use until two years of age or older, as a vital food for sustainable human development;

Access to human milk and adequate nutrition as the first measure of food security for the individual and that every effort should be made to recognize, promote, protect and support this practice, ensuring the reduction of hunger and malnutrition for the child population;

The acknowledgment of the Human Milk Banks Network by World Health Organization and United Nations Development Programme as one of the initiatives that has contributed the most for human development in the Southern hemisphere, promoting practical solutions that have been reproduced, expanded, and adapted by countries, respecting the precepts that rule horizontal cooperation;

The strategic role of Human Milk Banks in Early Infancy public policies from the standpoint of promotion, protection and support to breastfeeding, within the framework of the interculturality of each country; and

The results achieved by the health systems of the countries that are part of the Human Milk Bank Network;

We commit to,

Mobilize efforts, within the framework of the international technical cooperation of our countries, for the creation of the BRICS Network of Human Milk Banks in order to expand sharing of knowledge and technologies focused on food and nutritional security in neonatal and nursing infant care, with the right to health as its central value.

Brasília, Brazil, on August 30, 2019

