

**Global capacity building workshop & symposium**  
**Conflicts of interest and the infant and young child feeding arena**  
**An assessment from a corporate accountability perspective**

**Organisers**

IBFAN Asia (Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India, BPNI), New Delhi; in collaboration with IBFAN-GIFA, Geneva; and Baby Milk Action (BMA), Cambridge.

The 9<sup>th</sup> December symposium co-sponsored by School of Law and Social Justice, Liverpool University

**Duration, dates, location**

3 days, Monday-Wednesday, 7-9 December 2015, in London

**Format**

Participatory capacity building workshop for IBFAN and like-minded civil society organisations

On 3<sup>rd</sup> day afternoon and evening: symposium for interested outside participants

**Aim & objectives of the workshop**

**Aim**

Capacity building on conflicts of interest within the IBFAN Network & like-minded CSOs; and outreach to members of the Conflict of Interest Network (COIN) and other public interest NGOs, professional organisations, engaged academics and MPs.

**Primary objectives**

To assist participants to more effectively raise alarm to Col issues; and publicly argue for more appropriate Col safeguards, by:

1. Increasing relevant knowledge on conflict of interest theories (and potentially to related theories; in particular institutional corruption/corrosion theory)
2. Increasing knowledge on concrete Col cases in the work for corporate accountability of infant feeding TNCs (and related fields);
3. Generating ideas on how to more effectively raise awareness on and advocate for Col policies and legislation

**Additional objectives**

4. Networking and exchanging experiences between organisations and networks facing similar challenges and who want to explore Col-based solutions and processes for addressing them;
5. Identifying first elements of a Col 'toolkit' for addressing Col and undue influence in the field of health and nutrition.

**Ultimate overall aim**

*to help strengthen safeguards for integrity, independence and trustworthiness of public interest actors and adequately address corporate and other undue influences* through effective Col legislative and policy measures nationally and internationally.

## Context

The event centers around CoI which risk harming the wellbeing, health and lives of infants and young children by preventing or undermining legally binding regulation of infant food industries and other corporate accountability activities (such as civil society monitoring & naming-and-shaming).

Regulation of infant food industry will be conceptualised as a “*contested process involving specific actors with differing interests and differing power resources in a precise context*”<sup>1</sup> (actors and sectors whose boundaries and roles have become increasingly blurred).

The challenges of how to identify and adequately address conflicts of interest will be analysed from the perspective of the corporate accountability actors such as IBFAN, relevant CSOs and networks, conceptualised as “countervailing powers” to TNCs.

The following actors are part of the current environment of regulation of health and nutrition related TNCs:

- IBFAN & related corporate accountability and voluntary sector actors (e.g. CAI, PHM; FIAN; HAI; CEO, SCF – and COIN)
- health & nutrition professionals, their associations, academia and professional journals
- UN actors (WHO; UNICEF; CFS; UNSCN; FAO; WHO/FAO Codex Alimentarius)
- public-private hybrids or so called PPPs/multi-stakeholder initiatives (PPPs/MSIs): GAIN; SUN; NCD Global Coordinating Mechanism and other MSIs in this arena; Global Compact; Business and Human Rights Forum;
- infant food TNCs (but also ‘big snack’ and ‘big soda’ and alcohol TNCs etc.), their business interest organisations; front groups and partnership brokers (e.g. GSO)
- World Economic Forum (WEF) – in particular the Global Redesign Initiative GRI
- venture philanthropies (in particular the BMGF)
- WTO and bilateral trade agreements with their dispute settlement mechanisms
- NB: Media/journalists will only be touched upon (e.g. BMGF’s and GAIN’s funding for the Guardian pages)

At risk areas for particularly problematic conflicts of interest to be examined include:

- Corporate influence on standard setting (e.g. WHO, Codex Alimentarius, CFS)
- Sponsorship (by corporate and by venture philanthropies)
- Funding of research and setting of research agenda
- Close relations with corporate actors under the “partnership”/“stakeholder”/“non-state actor” paradigm & label (at UN agencies, nationally & in global PPPs/MSIs)

Additional actors & “at risk areas for CoI” and ways to identify and address them may be raised via specific cases from the participants.

---

<sup>1</sup> Building on analysis of the regulatory process for UNICEF. see Judith Richter (2001) Holding corporations accountable: Corporate conduct, international codes, and citizen action. London and New York, Zed Books, p. 37

## Agenda for the internal capacity building workshop

<b>DAY 1/ Monday 7th December (9 :00 – 17 :00)</b>	
9 :00-9:15	<b>Welcome: Aim and objective of the workshop</b> (Arun Gupta with Lida Lhotska)
9.15-10:15	<b>Introductions:</b> Participants share experiences which motivated them to attend this consultation, their notion on Col with related sayings Chair Lida Lhotska
<b>10:15-10:30 COFFEE BREAK</b>	
<b><i>Theory on Conflicts of Interest and of Institutional Corruption</i></b> <b>- with discussion of case studies</b>	
10:30-11:30	<b>Marc Rodwin: Col history and basic theory</b>
11: 30 -12:00	DISCUSSION
12:00-12:20	<b>Betty Sterken</b> (IBFAN Canada) and <b>Maryse Arendt</b> (Initiative Lievensufank, Luxembourg): <i>Col and undue corporate influences at the WHO/FAO Codex Alimentarius</i>
12:20-12: 35	DISCUSSION
12:35-12:50	<b>J.P. Dadhich</b> (IBFAN BPNI-India): <i>Col in nutrition research, standard setting and policy advice</i>
12:50 – 13:05	DISCUSSION
<b>13:05 – 14:00 LUNCH BREAK</b>	
14:00 – 15:00	<b>Marc Rodwin</b> (Suffolk University, USA): <i>What are the main components of a Col policy in the health arena?</i>
15:00 -15: 30	DISCUSSION
<b>15:30 – 15:45 COFFEE BREAK</b>	
15:45 – 16:05	<b>Martin Pigeon</b> (CEO, Belgium): <i>Raising awareness about undue industry influences and Col issues at EU level – CEO experiences</i>
16:05 – 16:20	DISCUSSION
16:20 - 16: 35	<b>Patti Rundall</b> (BMA, UK): <i>Case study: Cols in the EU NCD arena</i>
16: 35 – 16: 50	DISCUSSION
16:50 – 17:00	CLOSING /logistics
<b>Day 2/ Tuesday 8th December (9 :00 – 17 :00)</b>	
9:00 – 9:15	<b>Constance Ching</b> (IBFAN-ICDC, Malaysia; with input from CAI, USA): <i>Corporate sponsorship and Cols: how serious is the impact of corporate sponsorship on the capacity and will to regulate?</i>
9.15-9:30	DISCUSSION
9:30 – 9:45	<b>Arun Gupta</b> (IBFAN-BPNI India): <i>How to work towards a bill on conflicts of interest – example India</i>
9:45 – 10:00	DISCUSSION

10:00 – 10:15	<b>Marcos Araña</b> (IBFAN-Mexico): <i>CSO experience in raising concerns over COIs and undue influences – example Mexico</i>
10:15 – 10:30	DISCUSSION
<b>10:30 -10:45 COFFEE BREAK</b>	
10:45 – 11:45	<b>Judith Richter</b> (consultant to IBFAN Asia): <i>Politics of COIs in global health and nutrition governance</i>
11:45 -12:15	DISCUSSION
12:15 -12:30	<b>Lida Lhotska</b> (consultant to IBFAN-GIFA): <i>Politics of ‘stakeholderisation’ and the infant food and nutrition arena</i>
12:30 – 12:45	DISCUSSION
<b>12:45 -13:45 LUNCH BREAK</b>	
13:45 -14:05	<b>Patti Rundall</b> (BMA, UK): <i>The NCD arena and the UN (incl. COIN)</i>
14:05 -14:20	DISCUSSION
14:20-14:40	<b>Fabio Gomez</b> (Brazil): <i>Can one resist ‘stakeholderization’?</i>
14:40 -14:55	DISCUSSION
14:55 – 15:15	<b>Laura Michèle</b> (FIAN International, Germany): <i>Raising COI &amp; institutional corrosion issues at FAO Commission on Food Security CFS and other food and nutrition arena</i>
15:15 -15:30	DISCUSSION
<b>15:30 -15:50 COFFEE BREAK</b>	
<b><i>How to more effectively raise awareness on and advocate for Col policies and legislation?</i></b>	
15:50 -16:50	<b>General discussion</b>
16:50 – 17:00	Closing/logistics
<b>Day 3/ Wednesday 9th December (9 :00 – 11:30)</b>	
<b><i>Synthesis of the 2 day discussions - key findings/suggestions/strategic considerations</i></b>	
9:00 – 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What can IBFAN members and allies do to most effectively raise the problem of conflicts of interest and persuade other actors to address the problem (via increased awareness raising; via policies and regulation)?</li> <li>• Identification of key elements of a Col ‘toolkit’ for CSO actors and allies</li> </ul>
<b>10:30 – 10:45 COFFEE BREAK</b>	
<b><i>Recommendations</i></b>	
10:45 - 11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future actions and follow up for IBFAN (with allies)</li> </ul>

**14:00h Start of the semi – open symposium** (For programme: see separate document)