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Subject:	Comments from Iceland		

Following is a letter on comments from Iceland on the WHO global strategy on diet, physical activity and health.
The original will be sent by air-mail today.

Kind regards,

Arnbjörg
Secretary

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Iceland welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft WHO Global strategy on diet, physical activity and health. Iceland recognizes the importance of a global strategy on nutrition and physical activity. Due to increasing globalisation of trade and communications, international collaboration is needed in this field. The leadership of WHO in this important initiative is highly appreciated. Iceland supports a strong global strategy on diet and physical activity and generally agrees with the draft.

Related to the discussions of the Strategy at the Executive Board in January 2004, Iceland would like to make the following comments:

While Iceland recognizes that science is not static but develops continuously, and periodic re-evaluation in light of new knowledge is an important feature of all public health guidelines, it finds the scientific base for the Strategy both strong and convincing and a firm foundation for the needed action.

Iceland acknowledges the importance of individual responsibility but at the same time emphasizes the need for public strategies and actions for a health-promoting environment. Children are a special group in this regard, and parents, school authorities and other adults have the responsibility to ensure the healthiest possible environment for children. The Strategy addresses this important area in a sensible and constructive way.

Iceland supports in principle the comments already presented by the other Nordic countries.

Again, Iceland extends its appreciation for the excellent and timely work done by WHO in global health promotion and looks forward to the adoption of the Strategy by the World Assembly in May 2004.

O.b.m

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Davíð Á Gunnarsson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a checkmark at the end.

Davíð Á Gunnarsson
Permanent Secretary