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OPEN LETTER TO MARGARET CHAN AND JOSÉ GRAZIANO DA SILVA AHEAD OF THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRITION (ICN2)

17 November 2014

Dear Director-General Chan and Director-General Silva,

A Global Convention to Protect and Promote Healthy Diets

This week (19-21 November 2014) health ministers from all regions of the world gather in Rome for the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), jointly convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The draft Political Outcome document for ICN2 declares a 'decade of nutrition' with a goal of ending malnutrition in all its forms.¹

Since 1980 the prevalence of obesity worldwide has nearly doubled and Type 2 diabetes incidence has soared with unhealthy diets the largest contributor to the global NCD burden.² The governance of food production and distribution cannot be left to economic interests alone. To achieve the necessary dietary improvements and to secure good population health, a set of policy options for healthy diets are required. This includes governments taking regulatory approaches to the operation of the market through, for example, restrictions on marketing to children, health claims, compositional limits on the saturated fat, added sugar and sodium content of food, removal of artificial trans fats, interpretative front-of-pack labelling, restaurant calorie labelling, fiscal measures and financial incentives, and public health impact assessments in trade and investment policies.

To realize the ICN2 goal to 'end malnutrition in all its forms' we call on member states to support the development of a binding treaty to ensure healthy, equitable and sustainable food systems. This could be modelled on the Framework Convention for Tobacco Control which has already proved successful in reducing tobacco use. A **Global Convention to Protect and Promote Healthy Diets** has been drafted and is open for discussion.³

¹ The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization. ICN2 Zero Draft outcomes document. FAO, Rome, and WHO, Geneva, 2014. Available at http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/files/97.ICN2_political_outcome/ICN2_zero_draft_outcome_en.pdf [accessed 29 October 2014]

² Lim SS, Vos T, Flaxman AD et al. A comparative risk assessment of burden of disease and injury attributable to 67 risk factors and risk factor clusters in 21 regions, 1990-2010: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2010. *Lancet*. 2012 Dec 15;380(9859):2224-60

³ Consumers International and the World Obesity Federation. *Global Convention to Protect and Promote Healthy Diets*. CI and WOF, London, 2014. Available at

Tackling the food- and nutrition-related drivers of disease will require political courage. A *Global Convention* can help member states, particularly smaller nations, to maintain a robust defence of public health for their citizens.

Signed by

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Modi Mwatsama, Global policy director, UK Health Forum
Premila Kumar, Director, Consumer Council of Fiji
Alejandro Calvillo, Director, El Poder del Consumidor

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Organisations

5 Frutas y Verduras x Día - Argentina

7th Day Adventists UNASP - Sao Paulo - Brazil

1,000 Days Partnership

ACT Brasil - Brazil

Adventista para el Desarrollo y Recursos Asistenciales (ADRA) - Peru

Agita Mundo Network

Al Consumidor, AC - Mexico

Alianza Civil para la Prevención de las Enfermedades Crónicas no Transmisibles (Alianza ENT Peru) – Peru

Alianza Libre de Humo Argentina - Argentina

AliMente - Mexico

American Cancer Society - USA

American Heart Association – USA

Artes Marciales de Uruguay - Uruguay

Asociación Mexicana para la Prevención de la Aterosclerosis y sus Complicaciones (AMPAC) - Mexico

Asociacao Ribeiraopretana de Ensino, Pesquisa e Assistencia ao Hipertenso (AREPAH) - Brazil

Asociación Civil Vía Orgánica - Mexico

Asociacion Colombiana Médica Estudiantil - Colombia

Asociación de Oncología Integrativa (ASOI) - Colombia

Asociación Hondureña de Neumología y Cirugía de Tórax - Honduras

Asociación Latinoamericana de Academias de Medicina - Colombia

Asociación Latinoamericana de Diabetes (ALAD) - Colombia

Asociación Latinoamericana de Facultades y Escuelas de Medicina de América Latina (ALAFEM/UDUAL), Universidad de San Carlos - Guatemala

Asociación Latinoamericana de Población - Mexico

Asociación Latinoamericana de Tórax (ALAT) - Uruguay

Asociación Lupus Chaco (A.LU.CHA) Pacientes On-Line - Argentina

Asociación Nacional de Empresas Comercializadoras de Productores del Campo A.C. (ANEC)-Mexico

Asociación para la Defensa del Consumidor y el Usuario - Honduras

Asociación Uruguaya de Nutricionistas – AUDYN - Uruguay

Associação de Diabetes Juvenil (ADJ) - Brazil

Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH), UK

Blue Planet Project / Council of Canadians Food & Water Watch - Mexico

Cada Paso Cuenta - Argentina

Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids - USA

Canadian Public Health Association - Canada

Cardiology Institute - Preventive Cardiology Department - Cuba

Caribbean Cardiac Society - Region of the Caribbean

CELAFISCS - Centro de Estudos do Laboratório de Aptidão Física de São Caetano do Sul- Brazil

Center for Addiction and Mental Health - Canada

Center for Healthy Weight, Stanford University- United States

Centro de Capacitación en Ecología y Salud para Campesinos (CCESC) – Mexico

Centro de Derechos Humanos "Fray Francisco de Vitoria OP", A.C. - Mexico

Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS) - Argentina

Centro de Investigación Epidemia del Tabaco (CIET) - Uruguay

Centro de Investigación Social y Educación Popular – Peru

Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo Ecuador - Ecuador

Centro de Medicina Familiar y Comunitaria, San Pantaleón - Argentina

Centro de Medicina Respiratoria de Paraná - Argentina

Centro de Salud Valentina Sur Neuquén Capital - Argentina

Centro Latinoamericano de Economía Humana (CLAEH) - Uruguay

Centro para la Justicia y Derecho Internacional (CEJIL) - Bolivia

Centro Privado de Medicina Respiratoria - Argentina

CEPEDOC Cidades Saudáveis de Faculdade de Saúde Pública da Universidade de São Paulo - Brazil

Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada (CDPAC) -Canada

Ciclovías Recreativas de las Américas (CRA) - Mexico

CLADEM Argentina - Argentina

Coalición de Organizaciones Mexicanas por el Derecho al Agua-Mexico

Coalición Panameña Contra el Tabaco - Panama

Coalición Salvadoreña para Ratificación CMCT – El Salvador

COA Nutrición -Mexico

Colectivas A.C.-Mexico

Comisión Nacional Permanente de Lucha Antitabáquica COLAT – Peru

Comisión Pro Fomento Vecinal Cuauhtémoc - Mexico

Comisión TABACO O SALUD - FCM - Argentina

Community Interventions for Health - Mexico

Community Centred Knowledge, UK

Compassion in World Farming, UK

Concern Worldwide

Confederación Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Nutricionistas y Dietistas – Confelanyd - Uruguay

Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano (CELAM), Departamento de Justicia y Solidaridad - Colombia

Consultora Independiente de Educación de Cáncer Colombia - Colombia

Consultorio Médico de Tabaquismo de Córdoba - Argentina

Consumidores Argentinos - Argentina

ContraPeso- Mexico

Corporate Accountability International - Colombia

Cuidar a los que Cuiden - Argentina

Del Plata Adventist University, School of Health Sciences - Argentina

Democracia Global, Sede Argentina - Argentina

Dirección de Salud Mental, MSP Nación - Argentina

El Barzón-Mexico

El Otro Medio - Argentina

El Poder del Consumidor A.C. - Mexico

EMBARQ - USA

Equipo Latinoamericano de Justicia y Género - Argentina

Escuela Superior de Psicología A.C. - Mexico

ESPERANTRA - International Alliance of Patients Organization - Peru

Escuela Superior de Psicología de Cd. Juárez (ESPCJ)

European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

Faculdade de Medicina de Ribeirao Preto - Brazil

FAN Mexico Red de Acción por el Agua

Federación Argentina de Cardiología - Argentina

Federación Latinoamericana de Obesidad (FLASO) – Costa Rica

Federación Mundial de Periodistas Científicos - Argentina

Federación Nacional de Productores y Operadores de Mercados Frutihortícolas de la República Argentina (FENAOMRFA) - Argentina

FIAN Mexico

First Steps Nutrition Trust, UK

Food and Water Watch-Mexico

Foodfirst Information and Action Network Mexico - Mexico

Foro Aire Libre de Humo para Neuquén - Argentina

ForoSalud, Red Peruana de Pacientes, Enlace Red Andina de Pacientes

Frente para Reforma Tributaria Saludable - Chile

Frente por un Chile Saludable - Chile

Fundación Campo - Mexico

Fundación CARDIO - Argentina

Fundación Cardiológica Argentina - Argentina

Fundación Cardiológica Correntina para la Asistencia, Docencia e Investigaciones Médicas (FUNCACORR) - Argentina

Fundación Cardiológica de Córdoba FUCCADIM - Argentina

Fundacion Centro de Diabetes y Podología Avanzada - Colombia

Fundación de Ayuda al Cardíaco - Paraguay

Fundación Dominicana de Obesidad y Prevención Cardiovascular, Inc. – Dominican Republic

Fundación FES Social - Colombia

Fundación Flexer - Argentina

Fundación InterAmericana del Corazón – Region of the Américas

Fundación InterAmericana del Corazón Argentina - Argentina

Fundación InterAmericana del Corazón México – Mexico

Fundación InterAmericana del Corazón, Baja California - Mexico

Fundación Mídete A.C. - Mexico

Fundación Movicáncer Nicaragua - Nicaragua

Fundación para el Desarrollo de Políticas Sustentables (FUNDEPS) - Argentina

Fundación para la Educación y la Cultura de la Legalidad Civitas- Mexico

Fundación para la Lucha contra la Diabetes - Panama

Fundación para Prevención y Control de Enfermedades Crónicas No-Transmisibles para América Latina (FunPRECAL) - Argentina

Fundacion PRECARDIO Nueva Esparta - Venezuela

Fundación Venezolana del Corazón - Venezuela

German Diabetes Foundation – Germany

German Obesity Society – Germany

Global Advocacy in Physical Activity (GAPA) - Colombia

Global Alcohol Policy Alliance (GAPA) – United Kingdom

Global Bridges Latin America - USA

Global Health Council - USA

Greenpeace México

Grupo Antitabaquismo del Hospital Italiano (GRANTAH I) - Argentina

Grupo de Estudios Ambientales A.C. - Mexico

Grupo Miocardio Rehabilitación Psico-cardiovascular A.C. - Mexico

Grupo Morelos - Mexico

Grupo Tacuba - Mexico

Healthy Caribbean Coalition – Barbados, Region of the Caribbean

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada - Canada

Heart Foundation of Jamaica - Jamaica

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Hospital Ángeles de las Lomas - Mexico

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Humanitaire Plus -Togo

IDF-SACA – Costa Rica

Indeportes Antioquia - Colombia

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP)- USA

Institute for Public Health at San Diego State University - USA

Institute of Interdisciplinary Programs for Primary Health, Universidad Industrial de Santander - Colombia

Instituto Cardiología, Dept. de Cardiología Preventiva - Cuba

Instituto Centroamericano de la Salud - Nicaragua

Instituto de Cardiología de Corrientes "JF Cabral" - Argentina

Instituto de Efectividad Clínica y Sanitaria (IECS) - Argentina

Instituto de Enfermedades en Ecuador - Ecuador

Instituto de Nutrición de Centro América y Panama (INCAP) - Guatemala

Instituto Interamericano de Derechos Humanos - Colombia

Instituto Nacional de Alimentación- INDA – Uruguay

Instituto Nacional de Cancerología - Colombia

Instituto Nacional de Nutrición - Venezuela

Instituto Oncoguia - Brazil

Instituto Regional de Investigación en Salud Pública - Mexico

InterAmerican Heart Foundation Caribbean – English-speaking Caribbean

International Baby Food Action Network Mexico - Mexico

International Confederation of Dietetic Associations

International Diabetes Federation (IDF) - Cuba

International Federation Medical Students Association (IFMSA) - Argentina

International Federation of Medical Students Associations - Peru

International Network on Brief Interventions for Alcohol Problems - Spain

International School Health Network - Canada

International Union for Health Promotion and Education

Jamaica Coalition for Tobacco Control - Jamaica

Komen Foundation - USA

LacMater A.C. -Mexico

Latin American Association of Social Medicine - Argentina

Latin American Nutrition Society - Cuba

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford, California, USA

MACMA Movimiento Ayuda Cáncer de Mama - Argentina

Mount Sinai Heart - USA

National Resuscitation Councils (CPR, ECC) - Argentina

Northumbria University, Dept. of Psychology, Prof. Alcohol and Other Drug Studies - United Kingdom

Nutritional Health Alliance -Mexico

O'Neill Institute - Georgetown University - USA

Obesity Policy Coalition, Australia

Observatorio Ciudadano por el Ejercicio del Derecho a la Salud - Mexico

Observatory for Food Security and Nutrition Policies - University of Brasilia/Brazil

ONG Libre del Tabaco - Paraguay

Oxfam México

Pacientes Online - Colombia

Peruvian American Medical Society (PAMS) - Peru

Programa Activa Salud - Argentina

Proyecto Alimento-Mexico

Public Health Institute - USA

La Red de Actividad Física de las Américas (RAFA/PANA) - Argentina

La Red de Actividad Física de las Américas (RAFA) - Brazil

Red de Familiares, Usuarios y Voluntarios (REDFUV) - Argentina

Red de Vigilancia Epidemiológica de las Américas (AMNET) - Mexico

Red por los Derechos de la Infancia en México - Mexico

Religions for Peace - Peru

Royal Society for Public Health, UK

Salud para los que cuidan la salud - Argentina

Salud y Género Querétaro A.C. - Mexico

Semillas de Vida - Mexico

Servicio Desarrollo y Paz, A. C. - Mexico

Sin Maíz no Hay País

Slow Food México y Centroamérica

Sociedad Argentina de Cardiología - Argentina

Sociedad Centroamericana y del Caribe de Hipertensión y Prevención Cardiovascular (SCCH)

Sociedad de Cardiología de Salta - Argentina

Sociedad de Diabetología y Nutrición del Uruguay - Uruguay

Sociedad Hondureña de Nutrición y Obesidad – Honduras

Sociedad Interamericana de Cardiología – Region of the Americas

Sociedad Latinoamericana de Aterosclerosis (SOLAT) - Paraguay

Sociedad Latinoamericana de Medicina Interna (SOLAMI) - Argentina

Sociedad Latinoamericana de Nefrología e Hipertensión (SLANH) - Uruguay

Sociedad Latinoamericana de Nutrición (SLAN) - Mexico

Sociedad Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Oncología Médica (SLACOM) - Region of the Americas

Sociedad Mexicana de Salud Pública - Mexico

Sociedad Paraguaya de Medicina Interna (SOLAMI) - Paraguay

Sociedad Sudamericana de Cardiología - Paraguay

Sociedad Uruguaya de Cardiología - Uruguay

Sociedad Venezolana de Hipertensión - Venezuela

Sociedade Brasileira de Cardiologia - Brazil

Sociedade Brasileira de Hipertensão - Brazil

Sociedade Brasileira de Neumonología - Brazil

The Collegium Ramazzini - USA

The European Public Health Association (EUPHA)

The Food Commission, London, UK

The Food Information Trust, London, UK

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada (HSFC)

The Hunger Project Mexico

The Regional Chapters (North America and LAC) of the International Union of Health Promotion and Education- USA

The Zambia Civil Society Scaling Up Nutrition

Uganda Action for Nutrition (UGAN)

Uganda Civil Society Coalition on Scaling Up Nutrition (UCCO-SUN)

UK Society for Behavioural Medicine-UK

Unidad de Usuarios y Consumidores - Argentina

Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (UNION) - Mexico

Unión Antitabáquica Argentina (UATA) - Argentina

Unión de Productores de Hortalizas de la Central de Abasto de la Ciudad de México - Mexico

Unión Internacional Contra el Cáncer - Argentina

Universidad de Morón - Argentina

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World Diabetes Federation Latin America - Brazil

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World Lung Foundation - Mexico

World Obesity Federation

World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners Family Physicians (WONCA) - Colombia

World Public Health Nutrition Association – United Kingdom and Brazil

World Vision – Costa Rica