



WORLD  
OBESITY



## 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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/sites/default/files/files/97.ICN2_political_outcome/ICN2_zero_draft_outcome_en.pdf) [accessed 29 October 2014]

<sup>2</sup> 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

<sup>3</sup> Consumers International and the World Obesity Federation. Global Convention to Protect and Promote Healthy Diets. CI and WOF, London, 2014. <http://consint.info/conventionrecommendations>

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

Amanda Long, Director General, Consumers International  
Professor Walmir Coutinho, President, World Obesity Federation  
Modi Mwatsama, Director, global health, UK Health Forum  
Premila Kumar, Director, Consumer Council of Fiji  
Alejandro Calvillo, Director, El Poder del Consumidor

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Professor Olivier De Schutter (Former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food (2008-2014) and Member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2015-2018))

Professor Tim Lang, Centre for Food Policy, City University London, UK

Shusmita Khan, NCD Director, Eminence, Bangladesh

Vivica I. Kraak, Assistant Professor of Food and Nutrition Policy, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Dr. Lynn Silver, Public health Institute, USA

Dr Emma Boyland, Lecturer in Appetite & Obesity, University of Liverpool, UK

Sirinya Phulkerd, Researcher, Deakin University, Australia

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Professor Boyd Swinburn (University of Auckland)

Dr Thaksaphon Thamarangsi (Thai Health Promotion Policy Research Center)

Stefanie Vandevijvere (University of Auckland)

Molly D. Anderson, Partridge Chair in Food & Sustainable Agriculture Systems, College of the Atlantic, USA

Marcos Arana, Defense on the Right to Health, CCESC, Mexico

Dr. Abelardo Ávila Curiel, Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y Nutrición Salvador Zubirán (INCMNSZ)

Dr Simón Barquera, Investigador Nacional SNI-CONACYT-II ICM-F, Director del Area de Investigación en Políticas y Programas de Nutrición, Presidente del Colegio de Profesores de Nutrición, Centro de Investigación en Nutrición y Salud, Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública.

Yvonne Batson, Nutritionist, Healthy Caribbean Coalition member, member of Caribbean Association of Nutritionist and Dietitian, Trinidad

Noel Brathwaite, PhD, The University of the Southern Caribbean

Catherine Brown, Research Assistant at the Chronic Disease Research Center, Barbados

Johannes Brug, Head of Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, VU University Medical Center (VUmc), Amsterdam

Professor Simon Capewell, Department of Public Health & Policy, University of Liverpool, UK

Norm Campbell, Professor of Medicine, The University of Calgary, Canada.

Professor Sally Casswell, Director, Social and Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation (SHORE)

Professor Simon Chapman, School of Public Health, University of Sydney

Dr. Camila Corvalan, Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology, University of Chile

Associate Professor Leonie Clarke, Head, School of Technical and Vocational Education, University of Technology, Jamaica

Mike Daube, Professor of Health Policy, Curtin University, Australia

Professor Amandine Garde, School of Law and Social Justice, University of Liverpool, UK

Ssengendo Gerald, Community Development Personnel, Mubende Farmers Training Project

Dr. Stefanie Gerlach Head of Health Policy diabetesDE, German Diabetes Aid

Professor Ted Greiner, Chair NGO Constituency, UN Standing Committee on Nutrition

Royette Greenaway, Communication Specialist Government of Dominica, Health Promotion Department, Ministry of Health

Dr. Monserrat González, Escuela Nacional de Trabajo Social de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (ENTS-UNAM)

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Léandre Kodjo APPOM, Humanitaire Plus, Togo

Dr. Rohan Maharaj, Trinidad and Tobago

Mr. Sandeep Maharaj, Associate Dean Distance Education , Projects and Planning, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Lecturer & Coordinator Pharmacy Administration , School of Pharmacy, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

Simone McConnie, Barbados Diabetes Foundation

Dr John Middleton, Vice President, UK Faculty of Public Health

Associate Professor Sailesh Mohan, Public Health Foundation of India

Professor Marj Moodie Deputy Head (Research), Deakin Health Economics, Deakin University, Australia

Delia Octave, The Heart Lung and Blood Foundation, St Lucia

Biraj Patnaik, Principal Adviser Office of Supreme Court Commissioners India

Kikomeko Peterson Kato, Uganda Action for Nutrition (UGAN) , Uganda Civil Society Coalition on Scaling Up Nutrition (UCCO-SUN)

Ms Sarojeni V. Rengam, Executive Director, PAN Asia and the Pacific,

Dr. Victor Ríos Cortazar , Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana Unidad Xochimilco (UAM-X)

Dr. José Alberto Rivera Márquez, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana Unidad Xochimilco (UAM-X)

Professor Wayne Roberts, New College, University of Toronto, Canada

Dr Aileen Robertson, WHO, Collaborating Centre for Global Nutrition and Health, Metropolitan University College Copenhagen, Denmark.

Debjeet Sarangi, Managing Trustee, Living Farms, India

Dr. Jamario Skeete Clinical Research Fellow, Global Standardized Hypertension Treatment Project - Barbados Pilot

Dr Pallavi Sodhi Patankar, Secretary General, Asia Oceania Association for the Study of Obesity

Professor Mary Story, Dept of Global Health and Community and Family Medicine, Duke University, United States.

Elise Wach, Evaluation & Learning Advisor, Impact and Learning Team, Institute of Development Studies, UK

Professor Martin White, MRC Epidemiology Unit and Centre for Diet & Activity Research (CEDAR), University of Cambridge, UK

Dr Steve Wiggins, Research Fellow, The Overseas Development Institute (ODI), UK

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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

Associação Ribeiraopretana de Ensino, Pesquisa e Assistência ao Hipertenso (AREPAH) - Brazil

Asociación Civil Vía Orgánica - Mexico

Asociación 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

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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

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Instituto Cardiología, Dept. de Cardiología Preventiva - Cuba  
Instituto Centroamericano de la Salud - Nicaragua  
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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

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Komen Foundation - USA

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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

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Sin Maíz no Hay País

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Sociedad Argentina de Cardiología - Argentina

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

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Sociedade Brasileira de Neumonología - Brazil

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The Food Information Trust, London, UK

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