



PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GOVERNMENT SHOULD ATTEND THE NUTRITION FOR GROWTH SUMMIT (N4G) WITH A COMMITMENT TO DEVELOP A POLICY ON PUBLIC FOOD PROCUREMENT AND SERVICES TO PREVENT NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

ACCRA, Tuesday November 23, 2021 - The Institute of Leadership and Development (INSLA) is calling on government to make a bold pledge and commitment to develop and implement a comprehensive National Policy on Public Food Procurement and Services. This is to reduce and prevent the incidence of non-communicable diseases resulting from the consumption of unhealthy diets in Ghana.

‘This pledge and commitment should be part of government’s position at the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit to be hosted by the Government of Japan in December 2021. The theme for the Summit is **‘Everyone, everywhere needs good nutrition to live a healthy productive life.’** N4G is a global effort to bring together country governments, donors and philanthropies, businesses, NGOs and beyond to accelerate progress on malnutrition. The Summit will focus on mobilizing new policy and financial commitments to help reverse the impacts of Covid-19 and position nutrition as an essential development issue. The series of pledges at N4G has the potential to transform the way the world tackles the global challenge of malnutrition.’ Stated by Issah Ali; INSLA Project Manager

Unhealthy diets are responsible for millions of deaths worldwide. It is a leading risk factor for death and disability, diets which include excess salt, sugars and bad fats kill around 8 million people yearly. According to the World Health Organizations (WHO), diets related non-communicable diseases account for 42% of total deaths and 31% of disease burden in Ghana. NCDs kill an estimated 86,200 persons in Ghana with 55.5% of them aged less than 70 years. Diet related NCDs are projected to increase due to unhealthy eating lifestyle.

The core principles of a healthy diets public food policies includes; limiting the intake of sugars, shift fat consumption away from saturated fats to unsaturated fats, and eliminate industrially produced trans fats. Limit sodium consumption and ensure that salt is iodized, increase consumption of whole grains, vegetables, fruits, nuts and pulses and ensure the availability of free, safe drinking water.

According to Benjamin Anabila; INSLA Director, ‘The practice of the food industry being allowed to produce and sale any food product at any place is over, that practice has endangered the lives of consumers, government must therefore hold the food industry accountable and be regulated’.

Institute of Leadership and Development (INSLA) is a non-profit CSO center for the strengthening of leadership capacity and the promotion of development. INSLA’s goal is to stimulate discussions and actions to make humanity and its environment productive, safer and healthier.

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