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Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA

**Federal Food Safety and
Veterinary Office FSVO**
Food and Nutrition

3003 Berne, Switzerland
FSVO / bem

World Health Organization
General Director
Dr Margret Chan
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

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Berne, 11.04.2014

Dear Dr Margaret Chan and Dr Graziano da Silva,

First of all, we would like to congratulate you for the initiative of organizing the Second International Conference on Nutrition ICN2 which is scheduled to take place in November 2014. This conference will address the double burden of malnutrition including diet-related noncommunicable diseases NCDs.

The growing burden of NCDs requires our common attention at global, regional and country level. With the support of WHO, Member States in the European Region established in 2008 the European Salt Action Network ESAN. The network is chaired by Switzerland, which has been joined by over 20 participating countries. These countries share experiences and best practices in order to identify and implement specific actions that will reduce salt consumption in the population in line with the WHO Global Monitoring Framework.

Effective policies and interventions are available and experience of measurable improvements in countries exists within the WHO European Region. They should include population awareness, salt monitoring and food reformulation.

As salt reduction is a global issue we believe that the ICN2 will be an excellent setting for sharing experiences and success stories in the development, implementation and evaluation of policies to tackle the double burden of malnutrition.

We appreciate your intention to propose commitments to strengthen governance for nutrition globally and we urge you to include decisive actions to reduce salt in the food supply chain and to use iodized salt where appropriate.

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As such, the ESAN calls upon High Level representatives to:

- a) keeping priority on reducing salt consumption in the population;
- b) the development of comprehensive common approaches to food reformulation and salt reduction on the food chain;
- c) fostering research in salt reduction policies and initiatives;
- d) improve monitoring mechanisms for salt intake;
- e) ensuring that the global business community works together with public health authorities and communities towards salt reduction and food reformulation;
- f) persuading the industry to use iodized salt as appropriate.

We would like to assure you of our fully support to help in the efforts to achieve our common goals and we urge Member States at the ICN2 in Rome to support these initiatives.

Sincerely,
On behalf of the ESAN



Dr Michael Beer
Vice Director of FSVO

P.S. : The same letter has been addressed to Dr Graziano da Silva.