PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF ONE DAY CIVIL SOCIETY WORKSHOP ON LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY ADVOCACY ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND HEALTH IN NIGERIA ORGANIZED BY THE CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC) HELD AT DESTINATION HOTEL, BAUCHI STATE ON TUESDAY 16TH AUGUST, 2016.

PREAMBLE:

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) organized Civil Society Workshop on Legislative and Policy Advocacy in Agriculture, Nutrition and Health in Nigeria. The meeting aimed at training civil society groups to understand and effectively demand accountability on Nigeria’s legislative and policy process in the areas of health, nutrition and agriculture. The meeting drew over 30 participants from various civil society groups working on health, agriculture and nutrition. After exhaustive deliberations on various thematic issues, the following observations and recommendations were made:

Observations:

1. While adequate food and optimum nutrition status are the foundation for building healthy and secured society, Bauchi State is among the States confronted by high level malnutrition burden arising from food insecurity, inadequate care, and socio-cultural practices.
2. Malnutrition reduces economic advancement of a nation by at least 8%; and Nigeria is one of the 20 countries responsible for 80% in the global malnutrition status.
3. The existing high malnutrition burden at all levels is driven by intensifying poverty, failure in governance, institutional weaknesses, existing socio-cultural attitudes, gender inequality, food insecurity, inadequate breastfeeding, inadequate access to health services, inappropriate food intake, and diseases.
4. Inappropriate feeding habit by mothers, low breastfeeding rate, inadequate awareness on the required nutrition status are contributory challenges confronting adequate mental and physical development of children at all levels.
5. As Malnutrition remains the major cause of under-5 deaths, children from the poorest economic quartile are the most vulnerable to high level malnutrition burden at all levels.

Recommendations:

1. Adequate nutrition status food security, sufficient health care system, and appropriate awareness and sensitization to combat malnutrition burden and despicable socio-cultural practices.
2. Well-informed individuals through adequate sensitization and awareness on appropriate nutrition status and persistent investigative journalism on the need for sufficient nutrition status.
3. Government-media partnership for adequate awareness; exclusive breastfeeding practice; and rising intake of minimum acceptable diet by mother and child to prevent malnutrition at all levels.

4. Adequate investment in agricultural sector through appropriate innovative mechanisms, skill acquisition and capacity building, and provision of storage facilities to enhance food security, combat high malnutrition burden and secure lives and restore human dignity.

5. Prompt fulfillment in government’s commitment through adequate fund provision to address high level malnutrition burden at all levels.