DECLARATION OF ACTION AFTER A ONE-DAY MEDIA TRAINING ON
BUDGET TRACKING AND INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM ORGANISED BY
CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC) WITH
SUPPORT FROM MAC ARTHUR FOUNDATION HELD AT ROYAL HOTEL
DUTSE, JIGAWA STATE ON 29TH JUNE, 2017

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) with support from MacArthur Foundation organized One-day Media Training on Budget Tracking and Investigative Journalism. The Training aimed at enhancing the capacity of Jigawa State’s media on investigative journalism and effective monitoring and reporting of maternal health budget in the state. The meeting drew over 20 participants from various media outfits in the state. After exhaustive deliberation on various thematic issues, we the participants:

**Recognised** that appropriate tracking and monitoring of maternal and child health budget is achieved through fact-finding, evidence-based data collection and analysis as well as enhanced curiosity for de-normalised and well-focused investigative reportage to raise public and policy consciousness.

**Also recognised** that persistent tracking, monitoring and reporting of budget processes will result in increased transparency in the budget process; healthy and reproductive society; increased capacity for improved health service delivery and accountability; increased accountability for specific promises made by governments; and better alignment of budget with the plans.

**Further recognised** that investigative journalism can be effectively deployed to expose abuses, unethical attitudes, secceries, and poor utilisation of maternal and child health budget at all levels.

**Expressed concern** over delayed assent to the 2017 Appropriation Bill that hampers efforts at providing adequate, accessible and affordable maternal and child healthcare services in Jigawa state

**Also expressed concern** over reluctant by the media to effectively engage budget processes; excessive and unresponsive bureaucracy; lack of legal and policy frameworks to guide implementation of maternal and child health budget

**Noted** that creating sense of ownership through community orientation and re-orientation programmes will help in promoting accessibility to maternal and child health services and complement the state’s effort at providing adequate, accessible and affordable maternal health services.

**Also noted** that appropriate understanding and use of Freedom of Information Act will help to effectively interrogate and report maternal and child health related issues.

**Affirmed** existing rules and regulations, ethical standards and legislation guiding investigative journalism and shall embrace such in fact-findings and reporting on maternal health.
Committed to imbibe and deploy high level professionalism, technical skills, knowledge and resources in investigative journalism into maternal and child health issues in the state.

Also committed to persistent research for accurate and verifiable data collection to support fact-findings and constructive reportage on maternal and child health

Will prioritize the use of Freedom of Information Act to de-normalise reportage into maternal and child health issues in the state.

Signed: