DECLARATION OF ACTION AFTER ONE DAY MENTORSHIP TRAINING FOR MEDIA CHAMPIONS IN CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH ORGANISED BY CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC) IN COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERSHIP FOR ADVOCACY IN CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH (PACFaH) HELD AT CHESTERFIELD HOTEL, LAGOS ON 8TH APRIL, 2016

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) in collaboration with Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health (PACFaH) held One Day Mentorship Training for Media Champions in Child and Family Health. The training held at Chesterfield Hotel, Lagos state on 8th April, 2016 was attended by about 20 media champions working in child and family health. The session aimed to bring reputable media champions advocating for, and demanding accountability in child and family health in Oyo state, under one roof for a training on prioritizing and amplifying child and family health issues—Nutrition, Routine Immunisation, Family Planning and management of childhood killer diseases, in the forefront of the media coverage and reportage. After exhaustive deliberations on various thematic issues, we the participants:

**Recognise** that while family planning remains one of the key pillars and most effective means of achieving safe motherhood, inadequate awareness, wide funding gaps, existing socio-cultural factors and poor accessibility to family planning services at all levels are impeding challenges confronting efforts to reduce high burden of maternal mortality in the country.

**Also recognise** that malnutrition contributes to more than half a million death of children under-5 in Nigeria; and out of 800,000 under-5 deaths annually in the country, 40% are preventable through adequate vaccination (WHO, 2012).

**Express concern** over poor policy attention and curiosity at all levels towards full operationalization and implementation of various international and national commitments like National Blue Print on Family Planning and National Strategic Plan of Action on Nutrition (NSPAN) to promote adequate accessibility to contraceptive commodities and combat malnutrition, respectively.

**Also express worry** over disturbing figures projecting Nigeria’s tardiness in attaining global acceptable standard for exclusive breastfeeding which has given chances to high burden of malnutrition, and childhood killer diseases (pneumonia and diarrhoea) across the country.

**Note** that Oyo state remains the worst hit by high burden of malnutrition in the South west with 27% of children under-5 stunted; and 18% of women of reproductive age wishing to practice family planning do not have access.

**Also note** that sustainable funding and concerted public-private effort towards adequate routine immunisation would not only prevent development of childhood killer diseases (pneumonia and diarrhoea) but also successfully interrupt the transmission of wild polio virus in Nigeria.
Further note that improving and sustaining intervention through adequate funding, full implementation of the 2014 National Health Act to enhance Primary Health Care services, adoption and implementation of the recommendations (Amoxicillin dispersible tablets, and Zinc/ORS) and guidelines by United Nations Commission on Life-Saving Commodities, creation of specific budget line for procurement of the commodities will help to combat and mitigate the burden of children from pneumonia and diarrhoea in the country.

Affirm that appropriate policy commitment and curiosity to full-fledged operationalization and implementation of both national and international commitments to child and family health would help to address intensifying maternal and child mortality rate at all levels.

Commit to research and understand government policies and programmes on family planning to effectively communicate and develop human angle stories to educate, advocate and create awareness on the benefits, products and services/methods of family planning at all levels.

Also commit to Constructive and evidence-based advocacy to policy makers, traditional rulers, religious and community leaders to mitigate the existing funding gaps, socio-cultural barriers confronting adequate accessibility to family planning services, especially in the grassroots.

Will place child and family health issues at the front burner of coverage and reportage in our respective outfits through well-informed programmes, investigative journalism and evidence-based fact findings.

Shall effectively engage the newly introduced Zero-Based Budget by the government through persistent tracking, monitoring and informed reporting of budgetary allocation, approval, release and effective utilisation to provide for desirable child and family health at all levels.

Will support the ongoing lobby-free advocacy by PACFaH in the country through factual reporting and meaningful engagement with relevant stakeholders.

Signed:

1. Oguntola Sade  
   Nigeria Tribune
2. Adebola Ogunlana  
   NTA, Ibadan
3. Omobonike Lawal  
   Broadcasting Corporation of Oyo State (BCOS)
4. Adeniyi Ifeoluwapo  
   Splash FM
5. Kemi Olaitan  
   National Mirror Newspapers
6. Ademola Babalola
7. **Joseph O. Okwuofu**  
The Nation newspapers

8. **Adebayo Agboola Akamo**  
Blue Print Newspapers

9. **Jadesola Ajibola**  
Inspiration FM

10. **Iyabo Lawal**  
The Guardian Newspapers

11. **Dele Ogunyemi**  
Daily Trust Newspapers

12. **Tope Edward Fagbamigbe**  
Fresh FM