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 NASSARAWA GUEST HOUSE, KANO ON 22ND JANUARY, 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 Nassarawa Guest House, Kano on 22nd January, 2016 was attended by over 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 Nigeria, 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 adequate budgetary allocation to and information on child and family health should be accorded priority by governments at all levels to secure lives, healthy living and socio-economic development.

**Also recognise** that inadequate budgetary allocation to health, existing socio-cultural challenges, endemic corruption have resulted in poor access to life-saving commodities by mothers and children as well as other health care services across the country.

**Express concern** over less priority given to child and family health in the country; and will access accurate, authoritative and reliable sources to inform our advocacy to the relevant stakeholders to promote child and family health at all levels.

**Also express worry** over lack of political will to encourage child spacing and urge the government to support dissemination of accurate, reliable and consistent information on child spacing for the good health of the mother.

**Note that** media has essential role in advocating to the governments for sustainable routine immunization; effective implementation of National Strategic Plan on Nutrition (NSPAN) at all levels; creation of budget line for the management of childhood killer diseases, and adequate budgetary allocation to child spacing commodities in the country.

**Also note** that the main indication for malnutrition in the country is stunting which features in poor physical development and mental retardation in children, and resultant socio-economic challenges.

**Further note** that accurate, objective and transparent reportage helps in building confidence and maintaining healthy relationship with relevant stakeholders.
Affirm that adequate knowledge of child and family health issues remains essential to effectively engage governments to provide for, and individuals to access adequate child and family health care services across the country.

Commit to advocate to the government at all levels and community to secure their support and confidence to deal with challenges facing child and family health, through evidence based and lobby-free advocacy, and investigative journalism.

Also commit to seek adequate knowledge, avoid technical jargons impeding readers/listeners’ interest, provide focus and strategic media coverage and reportage on child and family health to secure governments’ commitment and individual awareness at all levels.

Will give keen interest, great priority and focused attention to objective, qualitative and strategic coverage and reportage in child and family health through our respective outfits.

Shall effectively advocate to the governments for judicious utilization of the nation’s resources and adoption of innovative mechanisms for fund mobilization for adequate child and family health.

Will support the ongoing lobby-free advocacy by Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health (PACFaH) in the country.

Signed:

1. Rashidat M. Olagunju  
NTA, Headquarters
2. Habibah Basanya  
TVC, Lagos
3. Marcus Fatunmole  
National Mirror Newspaper, Lagos
4. Karls Tsokar  
Guardian Newspaper, Abuja
5. Judd-Leonard Okafor  
Daily Trust Newspaper, Abuja
6. Stellamaries Amuwa  
PRNigeria
7. Grace Namiji  
Federal Radio Corporation, Abuja
8. Salisu Ibrahim  
Federal Radio Corporation, Kaduna
9. Maimunah Abdulrahman  
Kaduna State Media Corporation
10. Mohammed Ibrahim  
Federal Radio Corporation, Bauchi
11. Bulak Afsa  
NTA, Bauchi
12. Habiba Dauda  
Niger State Television (NSTV)
13. Momso Damien Dati  
NTA, Niger State
14. Abubakar Usman Akwanga  
NTA, Nasarawa State, Lafia

15. Donatus Nadi  
Leadership Newspaper, Nasarawa State

16. Ibrahim Musa Giginyu  
Daily Trust Newspaper, Kano State

17. Kolade Adeyemi  
The Nation Newspaper, Kano State

18. Olusegun Aribike  
Media Consultant