DECLARATION OF ACTION AFTER A ONE-DAY TRAINING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ON BUDGET TRACKING ORGANISED BY CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC) WITH SUPPORT FROM MAC ARTHUR FOUNDATION HELD AT MAKERA HOTEL, KATSINA STATE ON 10TH AUGUST, 2017

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) with support from MacArthur Foundation organized One-day Training for Civil Society on Budget Tracking. The Training aimed at enhancing the capacity of Katsina State’s civil society groups with holistic knowledge and skills to effectively monitor and report maternal health budget in the state. The meeting drew about 20 participants from various civil society organisations in the state. After exhaustive deliberation on various thematic issues, we the participants:

**Recognised** that maternal and child health remains paramount to the well-being and progress of any society, and several policies, frameworks and guidelines have hitherto been initiated to improve maternal and child health in Nigeria.

**Also, recognised** that while successive governments have introduced several programmes and policies to combat incessant maternal and child health, Nigeria records no fewer than 814 per 100,000 live births annually, as recently noted by the World Health Organisation.

**Further recognised** that appropriate budget reporting involves critical comparative and contrastive analysis of budget actual and performance during the fiscal period; provides constant feedback on adherence and compliance to budgetary provisions; enhances accountability and maximises effective use of resources; promotes participation; provides good guidelines for future planning; and enhances development at all levels.

**Expressed concern** over inadequate budgetary allocation, delay in release, and shortage of health workers in Katsina state where 507 midwives attend to maternal health needs of 6.7million population, thus hampering adequate, accessible and affordable maternal and child healthcare services in the state.

**Also, expressed concern** over the readiness by relevant institutions to make budgetary processes fully opened and transparent; and the capacity and credibility of some civil society to passionately and effectively track and report maternal health budget.

**Noted** that potential risks in budget tracking such as poor data collection and utilisation, poor data credibility and integrity can be mitigated through appropriate confirmation and use of data, well-focused and constructive scrutiny of budget actual against performance in fiscal period.

**Also noted** that while our primary focus and concern in maternal health budget tracking and reporting are resource utilisation, program or project execution, value for money, and benefit delivery impact, we understood that effective tracking and reporting takes cognizance of fundamental information such as budget statistics,
human resource for health, population, available facilities, relevant health care institutions, budgetary processes, demand and supply for health services.

**Further noted** that effective tracking and monitoring of budget by civil society involves measurable objectives, monitoring indicators, data capture strategy and analysis, and feedback mechanism to relevant stakeholders

**Committed to** engage required tools like revenue report by government, project documents, budget, government audited accounts, reports of governments monitoring committees, and due process in public procurement, in effective monitoring, tracking and reporting of budget

**Also committed** to adopt and utilise relevant tracking methods such as advocacy to government authorities, adhoc project monitoring, tracking via reporting, third party tracking in holistic reporting of maternal health budget’s performance

**Will** effectively engage available and credible platforms like relevant institutions, media, programmes, conferences, communities in reporting maternal health budget’s performance for an improved maternal and child health in the state.

Signed: