

Civil Society Declaration

Civil Society Declaration towards the implementation of food and beverages' front-of-package warning labeling in Latin American countries.

Considering that:

Inadequate nutrition is the second risk factor for mortality in the world, accounting for 18.8% of all deaths. In addition, it is a cause of disability and deterioration of the quality of life.

An unhealthy diet determines a context of double burden of malnutrition, where overweight and obesity coexist with hunger and undernourishment.

In Latin America there is a 7.2% of children under 5 years old who suffer from childhood obesity, exceeding the global average. In turn, obesity among school-age population (5 to 11 years) varies from 18.9% to 36.9%. In the case of adolescents (12 to 19 years), it varies from 16.6% to 35.8%.

Obesity in adults maintains its upward trend, affecting more than a fifth of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean. It also constitutes an important risk factor for the development of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Recognizing that:

As long as hunger and malnutrition remain as severe problems in the region, during the last decades the transformation of the agri-food systems and lifestyles have also led to growing obesity and overweight problems. This is caused by a greater availability and consumption of harmful ultra-processed foods that are high in fats, sugar and salt, while poor in fiber and other nutrients.

Food and beverage companies promote the consumption of ultra-processed products through marketing actions that hide information and confuse consumers. Companies disseminate misleading information regarding the content and consequences of the consumption of their products.

Governmental actions are fundamental to implement policy based on solid scientific evidence, free of conflict of interest and capable of guaranteeing the access to clear and truthful information. In this way, consumers would be able to make healthy decisions and enjoy their right to information regarding the products they consume.

According to the principle of progressiveness, as it was acknowledged by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Governments have a concrete and constant obligation to advance as efficient and effectively as possible towards the full compliance of economic, social, cultural and environmental rights; in this case in favor of the right to health and to adequate food.

Policies addressing front-of-package labeling (FOPL) of food and beverages was acknowledged as effective to comply with human rights obligations by different international organisms, such as the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food.

The ineffectiveness of current nutritional labels has been proved in most of the countries of the region. They only include sanitary, bromatological and commercial identification regulations, but do not include a NCDs prevention perspective.

The World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) have recommended the implementation of the FOPL warning system. This system has proven to be effective in regulating the production and discouraging consumption of ultra-processed products with high content of sugar, salt and fats.

Different studies conducted in Latin America have proven that the warning system is superior to other systems, such as the Guideline Daily Amount (GDA), the Nutriscore and the Traffic light. The warning FOPL is more effective in allowing consumers to identify less healthy products and to influence decision making towards healthier products. In addition, it has proven to be the best system at promoting the reformulation of companies, promoting the protection of health and the prevention of obesity.

Food and beverages companies obstacle the design of effective policies. Their main strategies are the deployment of false arguments and threats. They spend millions of dollars in lobbying, financing political campaigns and interfering with public health by promoting ineffective policies.

International organizations and standards, including the WHO, recommend that companies do not participate in the design of public policy. In order to avoid industry interference, governments must develop a legal framework with binding rules and sanctions for cases of non-compliance.

We urge our governments:

- To implement effective front-of-package labeling warning policies that meet international standards and the principle of progressiveness. These policies must be aimed at promoting the right to information, health and adequate diet;
- To promote deliberative and decision-making processes that are free of conflict of interest and that are based on the best scientific evidence available;
- To prioritize public health over the corporate interests of certain food companies.

	Organization	Country
1	Fundación Interamericana del Corazón Argentina (FIC Argentina)	Argentina
2	Conciencia Solidaria	Argentina
3	Asamblea Socio Ambiental ECOS de Saladillo	Argentina
4	Cátedra Abierta Ambiente y Sociedad de Saladillo	Argentina
5	Federación Argentina de Graduados en Nutrición (FAGRAN)	Argentina
6	Movimiento Agroecológico La Plata	Argentina
7	Cooperativa de Trabajo Iriarte Verde Ltda.	Argentina
8	Foro Ecologista de Paraná	Argentina
9	Museo del Hambre	Argentina
10	Cátedra Libre de Soberanía Alimentaria de la Escuela de Nutrición de la UBA	Argentina
11	Seminario sobre el Derecho a la Alimentación Adecuada de la Facultad de Derecho de la UBA.	Argentina
12	Asociación de Familias Productoras de la Cuenca del Río Luján	Argentina
13	Taller Ecológico	Argentina
14	Educación Alimentaria Kaleazul	Argentina
15	Granja Agroecológica La Verdecita	Argentina
16	Escuela Vocacional de Agroecología (EVA)	Argentina
17	Red de Defensoras Ambientales y Buen Vivir	Argentina
18	GEA Grupo Ecofeminista	Argentina
19	Fundación ECOSUR	Argentina
20	Colegio de Nutricionistas de la Provincia de Corrientes	Argentina
21	Exaltación Salud	Argentina
22	Asociación Formoseña de Graduados en Nutrición	Argentina
23	Asociación Civil de Profesionales de Antropología, Comunicación, Sociología y afines del GCBA (APACSA)	Argentina
24	Colegio de Graduados en Nutrición de Santa Fe, 2da Circunscripción	Argentina
25	Colegio de Graduados en Nutrición de Santa Fe, 1ra Circunscripción	Argentina
26	Centro de Investigaciones sobre Problemáticas Alimentarias Nutricionales (CISPAN)	Argentina
27	Colegio de Nutricionistas de la Provincia de Buenos Aires	Argentina
28	Asociación de Nutricionistas de Neuquén (ACNuNeu)	Argentina
29	Centro de Educación, Servicios y Asesoramiento al Consumidor	Argentina
30	Asociación Sanjuanina de Nutrición	Argentina
31	Colegio de Nutricionistas de la Provincia de Córdoba	Argentina
32	Colegio de Nutricionistas de La Pampa	Argentina
33	Asociación Civil de Licenciados en Nutrición de Concepción del Uruguay	Argentina

34	Licenciatura en Nutrición - Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud - Universidad Católica de Santa Fe	Argentina
35	Colegio de Graduados en Nutrición de la Provincia de Salta	Argentina
36	Asociación de Nutricionistas Dietistas y Licenciados en Nutrición de la Provincia de San Luis (Alin San Luis)	Argentina
37	Fundación para el Desarrollo de Políticas Sustentables (FUNDEPS)	Argentina
38	Consumidores Argentinos	Argentina
39	Centro de Educación, Servicios y Asesoramiento al Consumidor (CESYAC)	Argentina
40	Fundación Más Derechos por más Dignidad	Argentina
41	Asociación de Nutricionistas y nutricionistas dietistas de la provincia del Chaco	Argentina
42	Fundación Soberanía Sanitaria	Argentina
43	Sociedad Argentina de Obesidad y Trastornos Alimenticios (SAOTA)	Argentina
44	Grupo de Trabajo Interdisciplinario Derechos Sociales y Políticas Públicas (Grupo DSPP)	Argentina
45	Asociación de Nutricionistas, Dietistas y Lic en Nutrición de la Provincia del Chubut (ANCH)	Argentina
46	Colegio de Nutricionistas de Corrientes	Argentina
47	Asociación de Nutricionistas y Nutricionistas Dietistas de la Provincia del Chaco	Argentina
48	Centro de Estudios de Estado y Sociedad (CEDES)	Argentina
49	Sociedad Argentina de Pediatría (SAP)	Argentina
50	Instituto de Desarrollo e Investigaciones Pediátricas "Prof. Dr. Fernando E. Viteri" (IDIP)	Argentina
51	Maestría en Nutrición Humana-Universidad Nacional de La Plata	Argentina
52	Sociedad Argentina de Diabetes	Argentina
53	The George Institute	Australia
54	Fundación Interamericana del Corazón Bolivia (FIC Bolivia)	Bolivia
55	Instituto Brasileiro de Defesa do Consumidor (IDEC)	Brasil
56	Observatorio de Políticas de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional de la Universidad de Brasilia	Brasil
57	FIAN Brasil	Brasil
58	FIAN Colombia	Colombia
59	Centro de Estudios de Derecho, Justicia y Sociedad (DEJUSTICIA)	Colombia
60	Educar Consumidores	Colombia
61	IBFAN Colombia	Colombia
62	AGROSOLIDARIA	Colombia
63	Red de Guardianes de Semillas de Vida	Colombia
64	FEDEMEDIOS	Colombia

65	Red Nacional de Agricultura Familiar (RENAF)	Colombia
66	Alianza por la Salud Alimentaria	Colombia
67	Grupo Semillas	Colombia
68	Colectivo Mujeres al Derecho - COLEMAD	Colombia
69	Movimiento Social en Defensa de los Ríos Sogamoso y Chucuri, Ríos Vivos	Colombia
70	FIAN Ecuador	Ecuador
71	Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo S.J.	Ecuador
72	Centro Agrícola Cantonal de Quevedo	Ecuador
73	Colectivo Agroecológico de Ecuador	Ecuador
74	Movimiento de Economía Social y Solidaria del Ecuador -MESSE	Ecuador
75	Comité de Usuarios y Usuarias de Mercado "Que Rico Es Comer Sano"	Ecuador
76	Campaña de Consumo responsable de alimentos "Que Rico es Comer Sano y de Nuestra Tierra"	Ecuador
77	Sociedad Ecuatoriana de Etnobiología	Ecuador
78	Acción Jurídica Popular	Ecuador
79	Carrera de Derecho - Universidad Internacional SEK	Ecuador
80	Red Agroecologica Loja	Ecuador
81	Coordinadora Ecuatoriana de Agroecologia	Ecuador
82	Asociación de Campesinos Agroecológicos de Intag (ACAI)	Ecuador
83	Instituto de Estudios Ecuatorianos	Ecuador
84	Observatorio del Cambio Rural (OCARU)	Ecuador
85	Comunidad Chumbi (Slow Food Ecuador)	Ecuador
86	Fundación para el Bienestar y Atención Básica Social, Institucional y Comunitaria (FUNBBASIC/IBFAN)	Ecuador
87	Fundación CAUCE	España
88	InterAmerican Heart Foundation (IAHF)	Estados Unidos
89	O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law	Estados Unidos
90	Instituto de Nutrición de Centro América y Panamá (INCAP)	Guatemala
91	FIAN Haïti	Haití
92	Corporate Accountability	Internacional
93	Justicia Alimentaria	Internacional
94	FIAN Internacional	Internacional
95	NCD Alliance	Internacional
96	International Network for Food and Obesity/NCDs Research, Monitoring and Action Support (INFORMAS)	Internacional
97	World Obesity Federation	Internacional
98	Vital Strategies	Internacional
99	Terra Nuova	Italia
100	The Hearth Foundation of Jamaica	Jamaica

101	Healthy Caribbean Coalition	Jamaica	
102	Poder del Consumidor	México	
103	ContraPeso	México	
104	Grupo de Estudios Ambientales A.C.	México	
105	Asociación Nacional de Empresas Comercializadoras de Productores del Campo	México	
106	FIAN México	México	
107	Red por los Derechos de la Infancia en México	México	
108	The Hunger Project México	México	
109	Salud Crítica	México	
110	Comité de Derechos Humanos Ajusco	México	
111	Una Escuela de Colores	México	
112	Tribu Materna	México	
113	Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública (INSP)	México	
114	Environmental Rights Action Friends of the Earth	Nigeria	
115	Plataforma por la Alimentación Saludable Perú	Perú	
116	Coalición Latinoamericana Saludable (CLAS)	Regional	
117	Latinamerican & Caribbean Society of Medical Oncology (SLACOM)	Regional	
118	JVE International	Togo	
119	Uganda National Health Consumers' Organisation (UNHCO)	Uganda	
120	Asociación Uruguaya de Dietistas y Nutricionistas de Uruguay	Uruguay	
121	Alianza ENT Uruguay	Uruguay	
122	Equipo de Proyectos y Asesoría Social (EDEPA A C.)	Venezuela	
123	Slow Food Miranda	Venezuela	
124	Ecoturística 1325	Venezuela	
Individual support			
125	Marco Cornejo Ovalle	Chile	Director Académico Programa Especialización Salud Pública
126	Andrea Muñoz Martínez	Chile	Académica del Área de Salud Pública del Instituto de Investigación en Ciencias Odontológicas (ICOD) de la Facultad de Odontología de la Universidad de Chile
127	Guido Girardi	Chile	Senador Nacional

128	Juana Camacho	Colombia	Investigadora Instituto Colombiano de Antropología e Historia - ICANH
129	Laura Pautassi	Argentina	Facultad de Derecho, Universidad de Buenos Aires
130	Maximiliano Carrasco	Argentina	Facultad de Derecho, Universidad de Buenos Aires
131	Klaudia Cárdenas Botero	Colombia	Instituto Alexander von Humboldt
132	Gastón Ares	Universidad de la República de Uruguay	Uruguay