



**STATEMENT OF THE MAIZE FORTIFICATION STRATEGY WORKSHOP FOR AFRICA
HELD FROM 3-7 OCTOBER 2016 IN DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA.**

A Declaration to accelerate maize flour/meal fortification in Africa

1. We, the representatives of government and grain milling sector from Benin, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Togo, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and their developmental partners met in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania from 3 October 2016 to 7 October 2016 deliberating on the need to strategize on the scaling up of the maize flour fortification program in these countries as a vehicle to reducing micronutrient malnutrition. Even though other fortification vehicles like salt fortification, vegetable oil fortification, sugar fortification and wheat flour fortification are being implemented but maize needs to be stepped up.
2. This fortification strategy workshop was informed by the recognition that;
 - i. all governments are bound by International law, notably the United Nations Charter, continental, regional and national laws to afford adequate food and nutrition security to all their citizens as fundamental right.
 - ii. nutrient deficiencies are still visible and prevalent in all African states, albeit at varying extents, taking serious toll on the health and economic development of the generality of its populace in particular women and children, by causing stunted growth, anemia, birth defects like spina bifida.
 - iii. maize is a staple, food daily and widely consumed by the African nation and its instrumental in achieving the SDG's..
 - iv. numerous countries have put legislation and developed standards that make maize fortification mandatory and enforceable. Implementation has been painfully slow due to a number of challenges/barriers.
 - v. other countries are currently fortifying maize on voluntarily basis, and slowly transiting to mandatory phase.
 - vi. very little, public awareness campaigns have been undertaken to educate consumers, millers, policy makers to promote maize fortification.
3. Delegates to the Maize Fortification Strategy Workshop unanimously resolved as follows;
 - I. All countries represented at this workshop or not represented but which consume maize meal/flour in Africa should do everything possible to scale up fortification of commercial packaged maize flour/meal by large, medium and small scale (roller/hammer) mills in order to reach all consumers. This will be done through developing innovative approaches to make it possible for commercial packaged SMEs to mill.

- II. Commercial packaged maize flour/meal fortification as led by grain millers associations, large, medium and small roller/hammer millers, should work closely in a multi-sectoral cooperation for ownership/sustainability within their respective governments in ensuring that maize flour/meal fortification program succeeds in their countries.
- III. As already noted that large scale industrial maize mills alone are not covering a large proportion of the population, medium and small scale roller/hammer mills that commercially package their flour should be supported to fortify with vitamins and minerals according to the national standards.
- IV. Countries that are in voluntary stage should endeavor to enact enabling legislation that will regulate and enforce maize meal/flour fortification according to their national standards.
- V. Appropriate technologies that are customized, efficient, affordable and sustainable for maize flour/meal fortification be provided by suppliers to commercially packaging maize millers.
- VI. Continued lobbying/advocacy/awareness for maize flour/meal fortification be undertaken and persuaded vigorously at political and economic institutions such as civil Society's, SADC, AUC, COMESA, UEMOA, EAC, ECSA-HC, ECOWAS, WHO, in order to scale-up maize flour/meal fortification.
- VII. Governments, private sectors, academic/research institutions and developmental partners should as resources permitting, continue to harness and nurture the maize flour/meal fortification models and program across Africa.
- VIII. That an Africa maize flour/meal fortification strategy be developed to assist the participating countries to achieve the agreed action items within reasonable timelines, review progress to be made and solicit for any external intervention that may be required in scaling up maize fortification.

4. Delegates to the Maize Fortification Strategy Workshop congratulate the technical and financial partners from Smarter Futures, a partnership for Africa of the Food Fortification Initiative (FFI), the International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (IF), Helen Keller International (HKI), AkzoNobel and the Government of the Netherlands. The graceful hosting by the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children of the United Republic of Tanzania made this event possible, as did the generous technical and financial support from development and industry partners.

**“MAIZE FORTIFICATION IN AFRICA,
LET US NOW ALL DO IT”**