

April 30th, 2018

Prime Minister Andrew Holness
primeminister@opm.gov.jm
Kingston, Jamaica

cc: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization WHO
Dr. Carissa F. Etienne, Director General, Pan American Health Organization PAHO
Dr. Anselm Hennis, Director of Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health, PAHO
Dr. José Luis Castro, President, NCD Alliance
Sir George Alleyne, Director Emeritus, PAHO
Sir Trevor Hassell, President, Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC)
Media outlets

OPEN LETTER RE: THE WISYNCO GROUP LIMITED LAWSUIT AGAINST THE HEART FOUNDATION OF JAMAICA

Dear Honorable Prime Minister Holness:

The Healthy Latin America Coalition or CLAS (for its abbreviation in Spanish) wishes to express strong support for the Heart Foundation of Jamaica (HFJ) and its campaign to make the population of Jamaica aware of the harm that is caused by overconsumption of sugar sweetened beverages. The public should understand the connection between these beverages, obesity, and resulting disease such as diabetes, heart attacks and strokes.

CLAS is a regional non-communicable diseases (NCDs) alliance for Latin America, representing over 250 non-government organizations, whose purpose is to prevent and control NCDs in our region. Its members include medical societies, patient organizations, health NGOs, consumer protection organizations, religious entities, and academic institutions. Founded in 2011, CLAS is focused on reducing inequities, protecting human rights, and promoting effective policies with an impact on risk factors and determinants of NCDs.

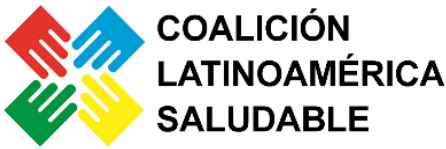
Obesity is increasing in all of the Americas. But it is particularly prevalent in Jamaica and the Caribbean. The resulting diseases are a major burden to the healthcare system, families and individuals. No government can expect to improve the economic and social well-being of its citizens while ignoring the determinants of health. See recent series in The Lancet on the economics of unhealthy diets, smoking and sedentary behaviors: [The Lancet Taskforce on NCDs and economics](#) (April 11, 2018). It shows the tight-knit connection between economic growth and controlling NCDs.

We support the Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC) as well in its work to reduce premature mortality from these diseases in the Caribbean. HCC, as does CLAS, has a significant role to help inform the public about the health risks posed by unhealthy food and beverage consumption.

Sincerely yours,

Beatriz Marcet Champagne, PhD

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<http://www.interamericanheart.org/spa/index.php/prevention-control/healthy-latin-american-coalition/hlac-members.html>



CLAS Coordinator (Coalición Latinoamérica Saludable /Healthy Latin America Coalition) *

Members include:

- Interamerican Heart Foundation and its affiliated organizations in Mexico, Argentina, Bolivia and Caribbean
- Consumers International Latinoamérica
- ACT Promoção da Saúde Brasil
- El Poder del Consumidor México
- Alianza por la Salud Alimentaria
- Instituto de Investigaciones en Salud y Nutrición (ISYN), Quito, Ecuador
- Healthy Caribbean Coalition, países del CARICOM
- Alianza para el Control de ECNT Chile
- Frente por un Chile Saludable
- Fundación EPES, Santiago, Chile
- Centro de Investigación para la Epidemia de Tabaquismo, CIET-Uruguay
- Instituto Nacional de Cáncer, Uruguay
- Alianza ENT Uruguay
- Fundación Salud "Dr. Augusto Turenne" Uruguay
- Instituto Brasileiro do Defesa do Consumidor IDEC, Brasil
- Centro de Estudos em Saude Mental do ABC, Brasil
- FEMAMA, Porto Alegre, Brasil
- Educar Consumidores, Colombia
- Fundación Colombiana de Obesidad (Funcobes)
- Mesa por las ENT Colombia
- Corporate Accountability Colombia
- Alianza ENT-Perú
- La Unión /The Union
- FUNDEPS (Fundación para el Desarrollo de Políticas Sustentables) Argentina
- SLACOM Sociedad Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Oncología Médica (regional)
- Coalición México Salud-Hable
- Salud Crítica México
- ContraPESO México
- Federación Internacional de Asociaciones de Estudiantes de Medicina en Perú (IFMSA-Perú)
- Public Health Institute (PHI)
- World Cancer Research Fund International
- World Public Health Nutrition Association

* See footnote for website with other CLAS members

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