Role of Non-state Actors in the Development of Sodium Working Group Recommendations

WHO Global Dialogue “Working Together to Tackle Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs)”
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Already a sound scientific basis for action

- Usually done by expert scientific panels
- Non-state actors involved in the implementation
Role of Non-state Actors - Moving from Knowledge to Action

a) Need to engage key players effectively

- Integrating food industry with the health NGOs, consumer groups, health professionals, other government departments (agriculture …
  - Who/which groups are the key players?
  - Need decision-makers – CEO’s, VPs, Directors …

- Need for “champions” – ideally 1 or 2 in each sector

- Role - Advice to government on implementation, decision making still rested with government
Role of Non-state Actors - Moving from Knowledge to Action

b) Balanced Representation

Sodium Working Group (25)

- Chair/Vice-Chair (Govt/Acad) – 2

- Steering Committee
  - Government Chair
  - Academic
  - Industry

- Balanced Membership
  - Government – 7 (6 + Chair)
  - Health/consumer NGOs – 5
  - Academics/Health Professionals - 5
  - Industry Associations – 7
Role of Non-state Actors - Moving from Knowledge to Action

c) Clear Terms of Reference

Mandate of the Working Group:
- Under the leadership of Health Canada, the multi-stakeholder Working Group (WG) will develop, implement and oversee a population-health strategy for the successful reduction of the sodium content of the diets of Canadians to be in line with the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies DRI Report.

Three-pronged approach
- Education, voluntary reduction of sodium levels in foods, and research
**d) Transparent monitoring and sustaining progress – *Trans* example**

- **Monitoring Food supply changes** – regular, detailed, transparent publishing of the results
- Accountability (e.g. french fries – partial data only)
- Effective motivator for change

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Product Name/ Description</th>
<th>Sampling Date</th>
<th>Fat (% by weight of food)</th>
<th>TFA(^1) (% of total fat)</th>
<th>SFA(^2) (% of total fat)</th>
<th>TFA +SFA (% of total fat)</th>
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THANK YOU!

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