

Alliance Against Conflict of Interest (AACI)

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AACI/2014/01

July 14, 2014

Shri. Lov Verma
Secretary
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of India
Nirman Bhawan,
Room No-156-A
New Delhi,110011

To,
The Secretary,
Ministry of Women and Child Development
Government of India
Shastri Bhavan
A- Wing (6th Floor)
Delhi- 110001

Sub: Engagement with Private Sector through Conference on Nutrition Security

Dear Sir,

Please refer to the letter No. Z 28020/77/2013-CH, Government of India Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Child Health Division), on the issues of collaboration with private sector.

We would like to follow up on this and like to know any further development in this matter.

1. We appreciate the recent World Health Assembly Statement that India made on the issue of conflict of interests, on agenda item related to engaging with Non State Actors (NSA). The statement cautioned about INDIRECT FUNDING from industry harming human health.
2. While speaking on the Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN), Indian delegation mentioned establishment of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn Child Health (RMNCH) Coalition as a major achievement.
3. We are concerned that the major partner in the Coalition, 'Save the Children' is steeped with Conflict of Interests it is supported by the food and pharmaceutical industry.
4. We are further concerned that MOHFW and MWCD have accepted to be host partners of the "South Asia Conference on Policies and Practices to Improve Nutrition Security on July 30-31, 2014" along with Save the Children.
5. As you may see that 'Save the Children', the main organizer of the conference is funded by the private sector companies including Pepsi, Coca Cola, Britannia, and several pharmaceutical companies (Attached prints from the websites). This demonstrates clear conflict of interests. Not surprisingly, one of the key themes for discussion at the conference is "Private Sector engagement".

