

# NUTRITION ADVOCACY IN PUBLIC INTEREST-India (NAPi)

November 30, 2017

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Sh. Keshav Desiraju  
Former Secretary, Health, GOI

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Dr. Rajiv Kumar  
Vice chairman, NITI Aayog  
Sansadmarg, Sansadmarg area,  
New Delhi-110001

**Subject:** Prevention of Conflicts of Interest in National Technical Board on Nutrition.

Dear Dr. Rajiv Kumar,

This is with reference to constitution of a **National Technical Board on Nutrition** as per the information available in minutes of the meeting chaired by principal secretary to the PM on 'nutrition' held on 04.11.2017.

We understand that the National Technical Board on Nutrition is being constituted by NITI Aayog and MOWCD on the lines of National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization to make technical recommendations on policy relevant issues in Nutrition.

It is important that this action respects the recently launched NITI Aayog's National Nutrition Strategy that recommends that nutrition programmes and partnerships should be free from conflicts of interest as mentioned in point **5.10 "ENSURE THAT THERE IS NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** An underlying principle of action is that policy development and programme implementation must be transparent, open to public scrutiny and kept free from conflict of interest, with requisite safeguards". (This includes ensuring that representation on policy, technical advisory groups and various management committees at different levels is free from conflict of interest.)

We as Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest (NAPi), a national think tank on nutrition would like to urge you to ensure that there is no conflicts of interest in the representation of the National Technical Board on Nutrition. It is also suggested that NITI Aayog should abstain from getting Business Interest NGOs or food-beverage industry's front organizations like International Life Sciences Institute (*ILSI*), Infant and Young Child Nutrition Council (*IYNCI*) etc on board in guise of private sector representation as they represent the interests of sugar industry and baby food industry both found harmful to human health.

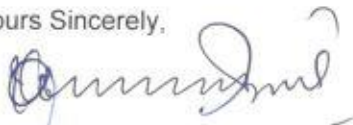
For your kind information, World Health Assembly has adopted several resolutions on prevention of Conflicts of Interest in decision-making and programmes in public interest and ensures transparency at the Government's end.

We can assist you in developing a guideline for managing Conflicts of Interest.

We look forward to a line of response and action taken in this matter.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr. Arun Gupta  
Convener  
Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest (NAPi)

**Cc:** Shri Ratan P. Watal, Principal Adviser (Social Sector), NITI Aayog.  
**Cc:** Shri Rakesh Srivastava, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development.

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