



## **First African Flour Fortification Initiative Workshop**

Arusha, Tanzania, November 17-20, 2008

### **Statement by Participants**

Given the magnitude of Vitamin and Mineral Deficiencies (VMDs) in Africa and their impact in terms of premature death, disability, reduced learning ability, lowered work capacity and constrained development;

Recognizing that the control of VMDs will make significant contributions to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa;

In light of the African Union's engagement to combat VMDs as detailed in the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)'s Pan-African Nutrition Initiative, which includes wheat and maize flour fortification as "fast-track" actions;

Noting the current and growing importance of the commercial sector in flour milling in Africa and the potential for vitamin and mineral fortification of centrally-processed cereal flours to contribute to elimination of VMDs;

Taking into account the demonstrated capacity of large scale flour mills to carry out fortification and its financial feasibility;

The participants of the First Africa Flour Fortification Initiative Workshop, representing flour millers; bakers; Governments; regional economic communities and institutions; civil society; academia; vitamin and mineral pre-mix manufacturers and suppliers; as well as development partners:

- Noted with appreciation the progress made in cereal flour fortification in several countries in Africa
- Appreciated the growing body of practical technical guidance for implementation of cereal flour fortification
- Noted the significance of the hammer mill sector and agreed that this should not impede rapid progress in fortification at roller-mill level
- Recognized that key stakeholders each play critical roles in the fortification process including millers, bakers, Governments, regional economic communities and institutions, civil society, academia, vitamin and mineral pre-mix manufacturers and suppliers, and development partners
- Identified critical success factors that need to be addressed to make progress in flour fortification including:
  - Political commitment at all levels
  - Regulatory framework and effective enforcement
  - Public awareness
  - Appropriate human, material and financial resources
  - Accelerated action by the public sector to match the private sector's enthusiasm
  - Pro-active exchange of country experience
  - Monitoring and evaluation

The participants have agreed to commit themselves personally and institutionally to accelerate action towards successful flour fortification in Africa. **"Yes we can!"**