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**Inter-Governmental Institution for the use of Micro-algae Spirulina Against Malnutrition
Inter-Governmental Observer to the United Nations Economic and Social Council**

"There are people in the world so hungry that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread"

"Hay personas en el mundo tan hambrientas que Días no puede a parecerles a ellos, salvo en la forma de pan"

" Il y a des gens dans le monde qui sont si affamés que Dieu ne peut leur apparaitre que sous la forme d'un pain."

"هناك كثير من البشر يتضورون جوعا في العالم، حتى إن رحمة الله لا يمكن أن تظهر لهم إلا في شكل خبز"

Mahatma Gandhi

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OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY:

AMBASSADOR H.E. MR. REMIGIO MARADONA

SECRETARY-GENERAL OF IIMSAM

On the Observance of the:

United Nations World Food Day

16th of October 2010

IIMSAM Commemoration Special Event

14th of October observing the UN World Food DAY

@ The Estonian House

New York., New York

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Soutenez IIMSAM Soutenez LA VIE!

زكرم معداً IIMSAM! ةاي حل معداً

Dear distinguished gathering,

To fulfill its obligations to the peoples of the world and to realize its mandate of a world free of hunger and malnutrition, IIMSAM marks the celebrations of the United Nations World Food Day October 16th 2010 theme: "**United against Hunger**" by urging the International Community to incorporate Spirulina in its Food Security Agenda. Those of you who have gathered here today from all walks of life to support the mandate of IIMSAM to realise its vision of a better tomorrow for the humankind- a future free of malnutrition for the peoples of the world; my words fail to express my gratitude because of the limited power of expression.

It overwhelms me when I see this gathering to express solidarity with the cause of IIMSAM. It has been a few years since IIMSAM has been trying to mainstream the use of Spirulina to eradicate malnutrition, achieve food security and bridge the health divide.

This gathering is not only an *august* platform to renew our commitments to eradicate malnutrition through Spirulina but is also homage to people and children whose innocent lives could have been saved but we failed to do so. The international community is answerable to the ones who lost their lives to the scourge of malnutrition. **The Right to Food and quality nutrition is the most basic of human rights.** It is not only the bedrock but also a prerequisite to other human rights that help a human being live a life of dignity. **I remember lines from President Obama in Oslo who while receiving the Nobel Prize for Peace last year said that *if human rights are not protected, peace is a hollow promise.***

Peace, my friends, is in fact no more than a hollow promise in the world we live in. How can we be answerable to our own conscience when over a **billion** people are hungry in this world and millions are on the verge of death because of malnutrition? Just because malnutrition brings silent death to innocent children and emaciated women and men; does that mean the international community has no duty towards saving their lives? It is our collective responsibility and guilt that we failed to save the lives we could have.

It is a pardonable when a person does not know about a solution and therefore is unable to take necessary actions to rectify the situation. But it is criminal to turn a blind eye and avoid taking necessary actions to address the issue when one could. The damage done in the latter case is catastrophic.

The delay in incorporation of Spirulina by the international community as a food fortifying tool to save innocent lives lost to malnutrition and secure the UN MDGs also categorises in that.

Are we not answerable to those whose cries of agony we cannot hear and the tears of anguish we cannot see? Are the developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America in too distant a land in the 21st century globalised world we live in? Or have we become too selfish to pursue our myopic ambitions.

I have always been a man of few words but it brings me a great delight when I see people from across the world espousing the cause of IIMSAM. It also brings hope and strength to commit ourselves towards the cause we have committed ourselves to with a renewed vigour.

I am grateful to my young colleagues at the IIMSAM Secretariat for running it despite adversities and challenges, our high profile GWAs such as **Diego Maradona, Tushar Gandhi, Carolina Herrera, Monica Seles, Mama Sarah and Saidi Obama** who have been instrumental in the advocacy and the

Institutional Development of IIMSAM. I am also grateful to the outstanding financial and In-kind contributions from prominent personalities in the Middle East, Asia, Latin America and Africa IIMSAM is beginning to realise its ambition of a world free of malnutrition.

Malnutrition as we all know is the biggest challenge to secure the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. IIMSAM Spirulina Pledge Campaign which was launched in Jordan just a few weeks ago During IIMSAM's Second Annual Summit under the patronage of **Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Talal** and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Shall be instrumental to spread awareness and eradicate malnutrition from the world. It shall provide an opportunity to everyone who wants to become a stakeholder in our mandate to be a part and join our endeavour to eradicate malnutrition.

But a fledgling organisation like IIMSAM suffers tremendously because of lack of financial resources and other infrastructural challenges; and a disinterest and apathy and even rejection by the international community further *mars* our efforts to address the imperative challenges caused by malnutrition.

Our progress in the past has been slow but steady. And the success of our Spirulina Nutritional initiatives in **Kenya, Haiti** and **Mexico** the place of birth of *Spirulina Platenses* is an example that where concrete actions are backed by goodwill and the sheer will to go forward despite outstanding challenges; success is but a foregone conclusion.

I seek your support for the IIMSAM Spirulina Pledge Campaign which I am confident would be able to deliver Spirulina to the neediest, anywhere in the world. I also ask and plead to the Permanent Representatives gathered here to sponsor the resolution that IIMSAM wants to introduce in the United Nations General Assembly so that we can deliver our mandate to the peoples of the world in an effective and efficient manner. I am confident that along with the support of our official Member States and other countries; and supporters like your good selves, we shall be able to redeem our pledges, for a better future for the humankind.

When I was small I had heard a story that the collective power of a fist is much stronger than those of individual fingers. We at IIMSAM have to realise this. ***Together we stand and divided we fall.*** We should not let individual egos hamper the realisation of our noble goals. History is a witness that an army in which soldier's plays by their own rules never wins but is always wasted. The lesson applies not only to football teams but also organisations that are made of humans. Strict discipline and selfless service is the key for the success of IIMSAM's mandate.

With its extremely limited resources IIMSAM has shown to the international community that what can be achieved on the basis of sheer will and determination. We would have saved many more lives and established Spirulina Nutritional Initiatives across the world, if IIMSAM had sufficient resources. I recall **Margaret Mead** the famous American Anthropologist who said that ***"never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."*** Together we stand for a better world and together we can realise our dreams and ambition to make the world a better place. I am confident that with the help and support of the people gathered here, IIMSAM will be able to serve its mandate and the peoples of the world. ***I am thankful to you for lending me a patient ear.***

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