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The Network for Sustained Elimination of Iodine Deficiency, the International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization (WHO), hereby acknowledge the request of the Ministry of Health of Bulgaria for external evaluation of Bulgaria's Universal Salt Iodization (USI) and Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) elimination program. In response to this request, we have the privilege herewith to recognize the achievement of the elimination of iodine deficiency through universal salt iodization in Bulgaria.

The achievement of the elimination of iodine deficiency is clearly described in the document entitled "Review of Progress toward Sustained Optimal Iodine Nutrition in Bulgaria" (van de Haar, van Ingen, Laurberg 2005), and we endorse the conclusions and the recommendations made in that report.

We are confident that the government of Bulgaria will sustain the elimination of iodine deficiencies. As noted in the report, continuous monitoring and surveillance will be crucial components in sustaining this remarkable achievement. The continuing operation of the National IDD Consultative Committee is another crucial component in sustaining Bulgaria's success. We note that the National IDD Consultative Committee could be enhanced if the salt industry were to be included in its membership.

We wish to congratulate the Government of Bulgaria for its success in achieving universal salt iodization and the elimination of iodine deficiency disorders as a public health problem. In achieving and sustaining the elimination of iodine deficiencies, the Government of Bulgaria is protecting the health and well-being of children and the entire population of Bulgaria for generations to come.

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Chair

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