



8th August 2014

Statement concerning the Ebola outbreak in West Africa

Nutrition Without Borders, as organizer of the **Pre-Congress of the III World Congress of Public Health Nutrition (WCPHN) to be held in Gambia the November 5th, 6th and 7th**, wants to inform all participants and stakeholders from the current situation of the Ebola crisis in West Africa. The crisis has affected Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and Nigeria. At this moment, no cases are known in other West African countries like Gambia, Senegal or Mali.

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Gambia has taken strict measures in order to strengthen the country's security. Currently there have been no identified cases of infection in Gambia and in neighbouring countries.

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** declared today the Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak, that affects the following West African countries: Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and Nigeria, a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). The WHO, however, considered unnecessary prohibit travel or trade with countries affected by the outbreak that began in March 2014.

As said Margaret Chan, WHO Director, "this is a clear call for international solidarity ... and our security depends on the urgent help we can provide to these territories." This is a warning to the world about the need for greater vigilance, but "in no way implies that many countries will be affected, only a small part of the African continent it is today."

Nutrition Without Borders is in direct contact with the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare of Gambia with the aim of assessing the security situation and take the necessary measures for holding the Pre-Congress of the III WCPHN. Obviously the crisis does not affect The Congress in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

At present the planning of pre-conference activities in Banjul and other areas of Gambia continue as planned. Keep you informed as events unfold.

Prof. Dr. Lluís Serra Majem



President of the III World Congress of Public Health Nutrition & Chairman NGO Nutrition Without Borders.