

Press release

Taxation of Sweetened Beverages in Morocco

Unanimous Adoption of the Bill

by the First House of Representatives of Parliament

The Moroccan Association of Nutrition, Health and Environment and the Moroccan League for the Fight against Diabetes with the great support of parliamentarians, experts from the Ministry of Health and researchers specializing in Nutrition and Health, have the immense pleasure to announce **the unanimous adoption of the amendment to Article 5 of the Draft Law on the Tax on Sugar Beverages by the deputies of the First House of Representatives of Parliament.**

This is a great victory and a great achievement by our country in the fight against diabetes, obesity and nutritional and cardiovascular diseases.

Indeed, knowing the disastrous consequences of sweetened drinks on the health of citizens (morbidity, mortality and cost for the whole society) with as a direct result an increase in obesity and diabetes in particular (3.6 million obese and 2 million diabetics), the Moroccan Association of Nutrition, Health and Environment and the Moroccan League for the Fight against Diabetes have carried out a great advocacy and advocacy work with all parliamentary groups.

It is important to remember that the majority groups and the Istiqlalien group have already supported and proposed the same project for the taxation of sweetened beverages and juices during the discussion of the Finance 2018 bill. The Minister of Economy and Finance at the time had asked for a deadline for conducting studies on the industrial and economic consequences of such a project. The same groups reiterated their request for the year 2019.

This time, all the parliamentary groups of the First House of Representatives of Parliament voted unanimously for the project of sweetened drinks taxation. In addition, the Minister of Economy and Finance has promised to continue studies

on dairy products that contain significant quantities of sugar for the same reasons next year.

It is essential to recall scientific evidence, WHO reports and successful experiences in many countries (Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom, France, Hungary, Mexico, South Africa, Chile, Brunei, Thailand) which have adopted the taxation of sweetened beverages as an important measure in the fight against diseases of nutrition, obesity and diabetes.

The members of the Working Group who have been working together for several years in Morocco on the "Tax-Soda" as part of the Moroccan Association of Nutrition, Health and Environment and the Moroccan League for the Fight against Diabetes, welcome these results and pledge to continue its work at the level of parliament, public authorities, media and civil society.

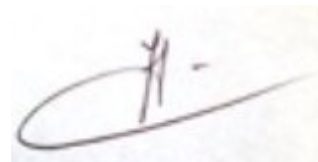
Pr Jaafar Heikel
Président



**Société Marocaine de Nutrition, Santé
et Environnement (SMNSE)**

**Siège administratif : 16 Lotissement
Narjiss, Route d'Azemmour - 20180 -
Casablanca
Tel : + 212 522 790/795
Fax : +212 522 361 368
smnse.maroc@gmail.com**

Pr Jamal BELKHADIR
Président



**Ligue Marocaine de Lutte contre le Diabète
LMLCD**

**BP 766, Rabat Chellah
Tél: +2125 37 77 33 41
lmlcd.maroc@gmail.com
www.lmlcd.com
www.facebook.com/lmlcd**