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CARMEN Biennial Meeting
October 2009, LIMA, PERU

Advances and Challenges in the Implementation of the Port of Spain Declaration 2007

“Uniting to Stop the Epidemic of Chronic Non-communicable Diseases”



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Declaration of Port of Spain, Sept, 2007

- Heads of Government recognised the burden of CNCDS as outlined the Report of the Commission on Health and Development

- The Heads adopt a 15 point Declaration;

- The Heads describe the event as a Wellness Revolution;





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Key Pillars of the declaration

- Physical activity interventions
- Food and nutrition measures
- Tobacco control
- Reduction in the harmful use of alcohol
- Secondary prevention





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POS NCD Summit Declaration

WHAT TO DO

- Tobacco control (#3,4)
- Healthy Eating (#6,7,8,9)
- Physical Activity (#10, 15)
- Treatment (#5)

HOW TO DO IT

- NCD Secretariat, Plan, M&E (#1, 14)
- NCD Commissions (#2)
- Surveillance, Gender (#11, 13)
- Partners – private sector, civil society (P)
- Media & Communications (#12)
- Sustainable financing (#4)

WHERE TO DO IT

- Workplace (#10)
- Schools (#6)
- Faith based org.
- Communities





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Progress after Two Years

- Joint NCD Secretariat operational – PAHO and CCS are main contributors ;
- Contributions from Food & Nutrition institute, UWI, CAIC and independent consultants;
- Secretariat most active in support of Caribbean Wellness day
- There is still a need for more dedicated staff to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Declaration





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International Support

- Canadian Support for study of Summit process, Promotion of Caribbean Wellness Day;
- PAHO support for coordination and capacity building;
- IDB support to UWI to examine sustainable mechanisms for surveillance of CNCDs in six countries;





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International Support

- Spanish (AECID) support for Regional NCD plan formulation and some aspects of Data collection;
- Bloomberg Grant supporting reduction of the effects of 2^o smoking, has assisted the region in arriving at a tobacco labeling standard





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International Advocacy

- Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Trinidad in the last week of November 2009.
- Proposal before the UN General Assembly for a Special Session on Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases in 2009 PM Manning



■ There have been other contacts with SADEC and the Pacific Islands Group.



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Monitoring

- Formal reporting to Annual Meeting of Chief Medical Officers in April;
- Annual Report to Caucus Ministers in September;
- Twice yearly assessment of Progress and reporting to Heads of Government in March and July.





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COHSOD request to Heads to address

1. **Establishment of Nat. Commissions on NCDs**
2. **Legislative agenda related to the International Framework Convention on Tobacco Control**
3. **Compulsory Physical Education in schools**
4. **Fair trade policies in all international trade negotiations. Labelling of foods to indicate nutritional content**
5. **Promote policies and actions aimed at increasing physical activity in the entire population**
6. **Public Ed. programmes in support of wellness. Observe Caribbean Wellness Day**





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Regional Strategic Plan

Caribbean Regional Plan for Prevention and Control of NCDs 2009 – 2013

- Working draft circulated
- CARICOM and OCPC/PAHO workshop scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday 24th and 25th November in Barbados to
 - finalize the Caribbean NCD Plan
 - Extract projects for funding





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Tobacco and Alcohol

- Both Trinidad and Barbados have Draft legislation on Smoking Prevention in Public places;
- The CARICOM Council on Trade and Economic Development (COTED) in 2008 supported the establishment of Standards for Labeling both Tobacco and Alcohol as adopted by the Ministers of Health;





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Regulation on smoke-free environments

Health-care facilities	3	Guyana, St Lucia, TRT
Educational facilities¹	2	St Lucia, TRT
Universities	0	
Governmental facilities	2	St Lucia, TRT
Indoor offices	0	
Restaurants	0	
Pubs and bars	0	





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Tobacco and Alcohol

- Caucus of Ministers of Health have requested COTED to review that aspect of the Rules of Origin within the CARICOM treaty which limits the taxes on cigarettes to excise duties;
- Caucus has resolved to address and limit the harmful use of alcohol in its September 2009 meeting

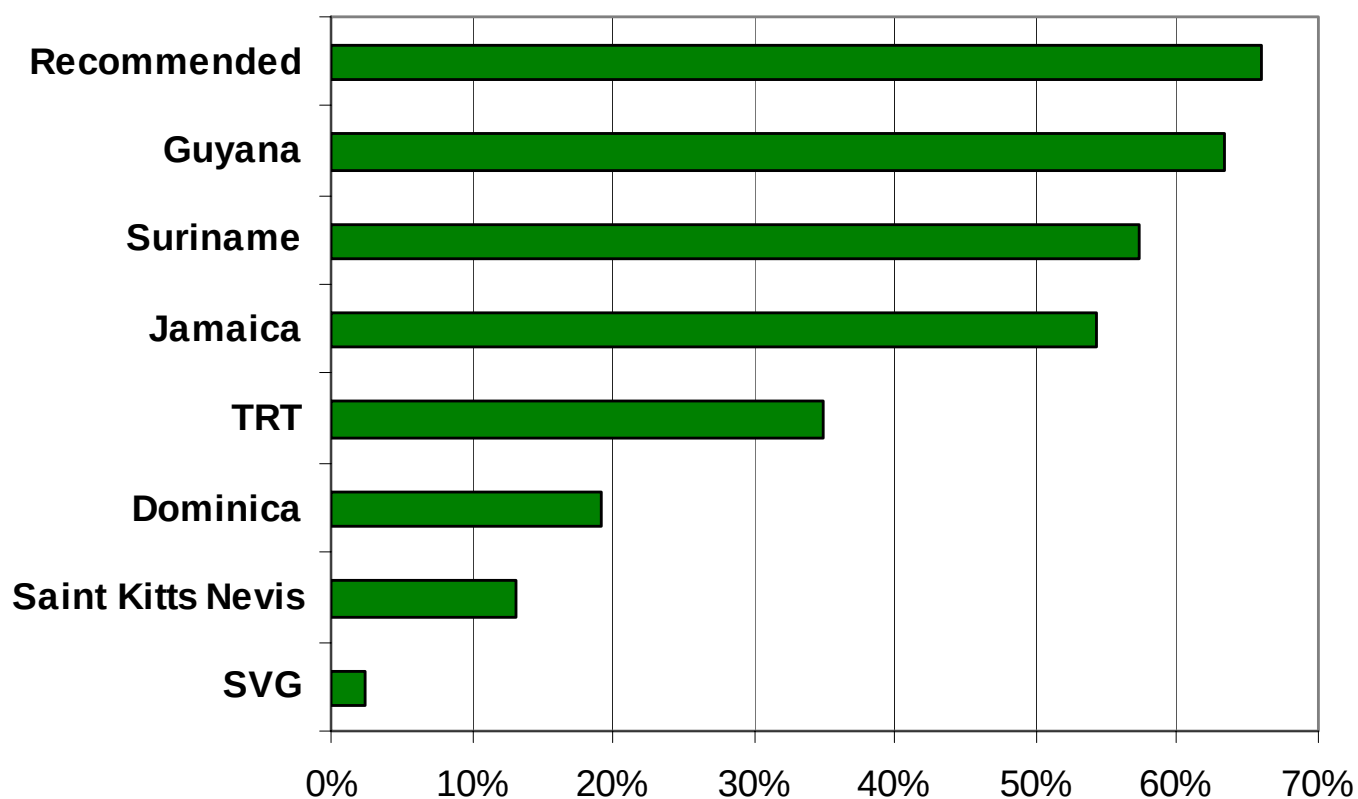




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**Excise Tobacco Tax as a % of Price in CARICOM
Countries with Available Data (2006)**



http://www.who.int/tobacco/mpower/appendix_2_the_americas.xls



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Labelling of Foods

- Harmonised regional standardisation process actively being pursued
- currently at the “Public Comment”
- Then drafts will be finalised and submitted to COTED for approval.
- Member states are then required to adopt & implement nationally usually through legal adoption of the requirements and specifications through a National Standard





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Other Actions

- Bicycling in closed streets on Sundays in Trinidad;
- Purpose built walking paths as in Barbados;
- School meals policies adopted by 13th Special Meeting of Council on Human and Social Development 2008 Feb;
- COHSOD 18 adopted the new schools curriculum for Physical Education 2008 Nov;





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Other Public Sector Activities

- Declaration of St. Ann's by the Ministers of Agriculture 2007;
- Seminar on trade policy and NCDs 2009;
- Establishment of a laboratory in Jamaica to evaluate trans-fat content of foods





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Partnerships

- Healthy Caribbean Coalition formed in 2008 has been endorsed by the Ministers of Health;
- Partnership with the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce to support healthy workplace policies
- Specific collaboration with other civil society churches as in Jamaica;





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Involvement of civil society – Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC)

- **HCC Technical Report** of the October conference, **Action Plan** and **Declaration** (www.healthycaribbean.org)
- **Activities include**
 - Support for the celebration of CWD
 - Audit of the implementation of the FCTC by Caribbean governments
 - Co-sponsor of University Diabetes Outreach Programme titled “Diabetes and smoking; the deadly duo” 25-28 March, 2010, Ocho Rios, Jamaica,





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HCC Resolutions adopted by the OECS Health Ministers, 11th Sept 2009, in SVG

- a. *National NCD / Wellness **Commissions***
- b. *Ratification and full implementation of
the **Framework Convention on Tobacco
Control***
- c. ***Salt reduction** programmes*
- d. *Support of the planned HCC **public
educational campaign** on chronic
diseases.*
- e. *Support for **Caribbean Wellness Day***





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Pharmaceutical Access

- Two countries with specific programs for access to NCD Meds: Jamaica and Trinidad
- Two others seeing to alter procurement preference in favour of generics
- Completed Regional study evaluating the pharmaceutical registration systems and requirements for generic product procurement;
- 2009 Caucus supported strengthening of Pharmaceutical systems to facilitate procurement





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Challenges

- Major political changes since 2007 not helpful to policy continuity
- Only Five Countries have the NCD Commissions proposed in POS #2. Two since 2007
- Regional Coordinating Mechanism challenged by Financial and Human Resource constraints;
- Donors not ready to support the NCDs in view of other global health priorities in particular Communicable diseases





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Challenges - Tobacco Control

- Suriname, only signed on to the WHO FCTC in December 2008
- Bahamas, Haiti, St.Kitts/Nevis, St. Vincent & Grenadines, all signatories still need to ratify
- TRT had presented a tobacco control bill that is being discussed in the Parliament
- In some countries, bill is stalled.





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Challenges

- Proliferation of Fast Food outlets without guidelines on food preparation (job issues);
- Threat of food price inflation and the importation into the region of low cost processed foods;
- As a producer of exotic rums and a major tourism destination, reluctance to control alcohol use;
- Lack of maintained safe public spaces for physical exercise;





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Challenges – Policy Reform in Schools:

- Greater emphasis on Health Promotion in Schools not just for:
 - **HIV/AIDS**
 - **Health and Family Life Education (HFLE)**
- Need for increased emphasis on CNCD prevention and control in HFLE to address. (A need for holistic curriculum reform to promote physical activity among youth.)
 - **Obesity**
 - **Physical Inactivity**
 - **Healthy Diet**
 - **Tobacco and Alcohol**





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Opportunities

- Policy Academy – UWI/U. Alberta in discussion;
- Gates Grant to support the public advocacy, legislation and objective support for policy formulation;
- Potential Full IDB project to support larger surveillance system;
- Donors meeting on sub-regional health cooperation strategy planned for Feb 2010





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■ THANK YOU

