

# Accelerating Implementation of the 2007 Port of Spain Declaration on Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs)

## TOBACCO CONTROL

The 2007 Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of Government Summit produced the landmark Port of Spain Declaration on NCDs. An evaluation of successes and challenges in implementing the Declaration's commitments has been undertaken.<sup>i</sup> This fact sheet highlights evaluation results, the current situation and how we can accelerate action.

**2007 NCD Declaration mandates: Ratify World Health Organization's (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and enact four provisions. Use tobacco taxes for NCDs**

### What we know

- All full CARICOM Member States, except Haiti, have ratified the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), but implementation is lagging.
- Progress in implementation of four provisions:
  1. Graphic cigarette packet labelling was agreed, but has only been implemented in Jamaica and Suriname.
  2. Tobacco taxes should be 75% of the sale price of cigarettes. No country has achieved this. Taxation rates range from 17% – 63% – See table below.
  3. 100% smoke-free spaces – only in Barbados, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago.
  4. Banning promotion – little progress.
- Increased taxation on tobacco products is an effective approach to reducing consumption and raising revenue, so long as smuggling is controlled.
- In three countries studied; Grenada, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago:
  - o Revenue from further increasing taxes on tobacco and alcohol could amount to more than US\$ 37 million which far exceeds the estimated US\$ 12.6 million cost of WHO 'best buy' NCD interventions. (See also Investing in NCD prevention and control in this series).

### The way forward

Goal: implementation of legislation for 100% smoke-free spaces; labels with sufficiently large and graphic warnings; introducing increased taxation and banning tobacco sponsorship.

### Policies and plans

- Use a regional approach to policy formulation and advocacy, adapted to national circumstances.
- Declare the Caribbean a 100% smoke-free zone by banning smoking in public places.
- Increase tax on tobacco by at least 50% up to the recommended 75% of sale price within one year by adopting and adapting legal and administrative instruments from Barbados or Jamaica.
- Implement graphic health warnings and ban sponsorship within three years.
- Launch a regional campaign on the dangers of smoking and the impact of second-hand smoke.

## Supporting activities

- Take advantage of the technical assistance available through the WHO FCTC Secretariat.
- Have a tobacco control focal point and/or unit in each country.
- Encourage the greater involvement of civil society for tobacco control advocacy.
- Modernise the approach to education using social and commercial marketing to support tobacco control.

## We are making progress

### An example: The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control



The WHO FCTC came into force in February 2005 as the first global public health treaty. It is now one of the most widely adopted United Nations treaties with some 180 Parties. The preamble to the Convention highlights the seriousness with which the international community views the dangers posed by tobacco and “the devastating worldwide health, social, economic and environmental consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke”.

In the Caribbean implementation has been patchy. All full CARICOM members have ratified the FCTC except Haiti. (It does not apply to the UK Overseas Territories). However, there has been insufficient headway made.

### What has been done so far:

Country	Total tax as % of price of most sold brands		Increase
	2012 *	2014 **	
Saint Lucia	20%	63%	43%
Suriname	61%	56%	-5%
Grenada		48%	
Bahamas	38%	43%	5%
Jamaica		43%	
Barbados	49%	42%	-7%
Belize	21%	37%	16%
Trinidad and Tobago	33%	30%	-3%
Guyana		25%	
Dominica	23%	23%	0%
Antigua and Barbuda	7%	20%	13%
Saint Kitts and Nevis	20%	20%	0%
Saint Vincent & Grenadines	15%	17%	2%

Sources: \* Table 6: PAHO/WHO Tobacco Control Report for the Region of the Americas, 2013

\*\* Table 2.1.2: WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic, 2015

Visit our website at [www.onecaribbeanhealth.org](http://www.onecaribbeanhealth.org) for full Evidence Briefs from the evaluation, recommendations for accelerating action and much more on NCDs.

