CARMEN Biennial Meeting
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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;
Key Pillars of the declaration

- Physical activity interventions
- Food and nutrition measures
- Tobacco control
- Reduction in the harmful use of alcohol
- Secondary prevention
# POS NCD Summit Declaration

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

## WHERE TO DO IT
- Workplace (#10)
- Schools (#6)
- Faith based org.
- Communities

## 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)
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
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;
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° smoking, has assisted the region in arriving at a tobacco labeling standard.
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.
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.
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
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
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;
## Regulation on smoke-free environments

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Health-care facilities</th>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pubs and bars</td>
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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.
Excise Tobacco Tax as a % of Price in CARICOM Countries with Available Data (2006)

- Recommended
- Guyana
- Suriname
- Jamaica
- TRT
- Dominica
- Saint Kitts Nevis
- SVG

http://www.who.int/tobacco/mpower/approx_2_the_americas.xls
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.
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;
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
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;
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,
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
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
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
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.
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;
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
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
THANK YOU