



REGIONAL GOVERNANCE: THE ROLE OF CARICOM IN ADVANCING THE AGENDA TO TACKLE NCDs.

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Good Health is Wealth.

The Caribbean region has been facing a growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and cancer. NCDs (cancer, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, diabetes)

1. are the leading cause of death in the Caribbean,
2. Contribute to loss of productivity
3. Create a resource strain on the health sector (human and financial) and a financial strain on the national insurance schemes.

I will be speaking to you on the role of the Community and the Community's secretariat as the administrative organ of the Community in tackling the NCD challenges facing the region and the causes of the increase in NCDs such as tobacco and alcohol use, unhealthy diets and sedentary lifestyles.

Integration

Economic

Human &
Social
Development

Foreign
Policy

Security

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15 Member States pursuing integration in various forms to

IMPROVE LIVES OF NATIONALS and **FUTURE GENERATIONS** through ECONOMIC GROWTH and SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT including through enhanced cooperation in the development of more efficient operation of common services and activities and in more efficient operation of common services and activities health

Health falls under the Human and Social Development Pillar but also spans the other pillars particularly economic and security pillars.

Legal Landscape

Community level



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Community law takes precedence over national law at the Community level and implementation of the obligations takes place at the time of the decision or when the decision so states.

ARTICLE 9 General Undertaking on Implementation

Member States shall take all appropriate measures, whether general or particular, to ensure the carrying out of obligations arising out of this Treaty or resulting from decisions taken by the Organs and Bodies of the Community. They shall facilitate the achievement of the objectives of the Community. They shall abstain from any measures which could jeopardise the attainment of the objectives of this Treaty.

Revised Treaty



HEALTH



TRADE STANDARDS



IMPLEMENTATION

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**Conference of Heads of Government
Community Council
Council for Human and Social Development
Council for Trade and Economic Development**

In addition to the objective of enhanced functional cooperation, several of the provisions of the Revised Treaty addressing health and trade that can be used to advance the agenda to tackle NCDs..

Both the **Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD)** and **Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED)** as well as Member States have obligations with respect to health and trade

The role of the **Council for Human and Social Development** to promote:

- the improvement of health, including the development and organisation of efficient and affordable health services in the Community
- the development of special focus programmes supportive of the establishment and maintenance of a healthy human environment in the Community,
- The Community's role to establish adequate social infrastructure and establish and

improve health institutions and facilities.

- Member State's obligations to
 - promote the interests of consumers and ensure the protection of consumers' health
 - take measures to protect human life and health
- The **Council for Trade and Economic Development** Role to promote standards, develop regional standards, harmonise standards and technical regulations
- Develop an agricultural and industrial policy
- Member States obligations to harmonise their standards and technical regulations (Article 74) and promote the interest of consumers by:
 - Providing for the production and supply of goods ... to ensure the protection of life, health and safety of consumers,
 - Ensure that goods supplied ... meet Community regulations, standards, and where none exist, provide for their establishment. (Art. 184)
 - Harmonising legislation to ensure that goods supplied to consumers are labelled in accordance with standards and specifications
- The establishment and designation of the Caribbean Public Health Agency as an institution of the Community
- The establishment and designation of the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ)

Article 26 – Requirement for consultations for decision-making and implementation

NCD Agenda

Regional and Global Action

2007 Port of Spain Declaration

COTED and COHSOD decisions

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The Community has worked to advance the agenda to address NCDs. This has included coordination by the Secretariat, action by CARPHA and CROSQ in the furtherance of their mandates and action by Member States.

Participation by MS, CCS, CARPHA, SROSQ in regional and international for advocating for combatting NCDs including the Bridgetown Initiative and the Bridgetown Declaration.

The Secretariat works together with regional partners to advance the agenda to tackle NCDs. In this context, the Secretariat officials participate on the Steering Committee of the Caribbean Public Health Law Forum. The work of the Forum complements the work of Member States and the Community in tackling the NCD epidemic.

Community decisions

2007 Port of Spain Declaration "Uniting to Stop the Epidemic of Chronic NCDs"

- Encouraged establishment of bodies to plan and coordinate a comprehensive prevention and control of chronic NCDs
- Included among the measures identified in the declaration were the legislative implementation of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control ("FCTC")

- Commitment to physical education in schools
- Food security, nutrition labelling
- Public education in support of wellness, healthy-lifestyle changes, improved self-management of ncds.

COTED-COHSOD. 5th Joint Meeting Nov 2019 Established CARICOM Working Groups on “Unhealthy Diets and Obesogenic Food Environments” and the “Harmful Use of Alcohol” supported by CARISEC and CARPHA.

Joint decisions include –

- working towards the prohibition of production, importation, distribution, sale and use of Partially Hydrogenated Oils in oils, fats, and foods for human consumption in CARICOM Member States;
- developing a policy position and to work towards regulations and legislation for prohibition of Partially Hydrogenated Oils by 31 December 2023 but no later than December 2024;
- Support from the Inter-Governmental Working Group on Unhealthy Diets and Obesogenic Food Environments, with support from the WHO/PAHO and other collaborating partners/countries, to Member States in their respective plans to effectively eliminate Partially Hydrogenated Oils from the Region’s food supply by 31 December 2025.

Ongoing work on the revision of Standards for the labelling of pre-packaged foods to include the information regarding the nutritional content as well as Front of Package Warning labels high in sodium, sugar, fat for adoption by COTED

COTED adoption of CROSQ Standards on the Labelling of Tobacco products, brewed products. Standards for the manufacture of carbonated beverages, processed fats such as margarine

Continue to use the provisions of the RTC

THANK YOU

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