



HCC Civil Society Action Plan 2017-2021: Preventing Childhood Obesity in the Caribbean Webinar Series

WEBINAR 3 CONCEPT NOTE

Exploring The Pursuit of Effective Public Health Policies Through A Trade Lens

BACKGROUND

The HCC is pleased to announce this webinar series in support of the Civil Society Action Plan 2017-2021: Preventing Childhood Obesity in the Caribbean which consists of webinars intended to build the capacity of civil society organisations (CSO's) and other key stakeholders advocating for and implementing childhood obesity prevention policies in the region. The series highlights policies that encourage the creation of healthier food environments including healthy school policies, front-of-package warning labels and taxation on sugar-sweetened beverages. It also aims to build advocacy capacity for the promotion of physical activity among children and adolescents through the creation of active communities and countries. The webinars will showcase the experiences and lessons learned from obesity prevention advocates and highlight good practices in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies aimed at reducing childhood obesity and overweight in the Caribbean.

The webinar series targets a number of stakeholder groups, foremost of which are HCC CSO member organisations, in order to build advocacy capacity in this area. Secondary target groups include regional policymakers and technical personnel across various ministries (including health, education, finance, trade etc.), members of academia, international partners, the general public including students and the private sector. The series runs on the University of the West Indies Open Campus (UWI OC) platform featuring regional and global expert speakers. Each webinar includes a question and answer session intended to encourage and inform community discussion.

WEBINAR 3

The **objective** of this webinar is **to sensitise public health policy makers to the relevance and implications of international trade rules for formulation and implementation of public health policy at the national level.**

The webinar entitled – **“Exploring The Pursuit of Effective Public Health Policies Through A Trade Lens”**

- Explores the flexibilities built into the multilateral trading system to allow states to pursue their public health goals as well as lessons learnt for public health policy making from the WTO tobacco plain packaging case.
- Comments on the importance of health policy coherence at the multilateral level and strategies to improve this coherence.

DATE AND AGENDA

Date: Thursday, January 30th 2020

Location: UWI OC Platform Blackboard Collaborate

Speaker: **Mrs. Nicole Foster** HCC Policy Advisor, Attorney-At-Law, Lecturer in Law University of the West Indies Cave Hill

Time: 10:00 – 11:15 a.m. E.S.T.

Agenda

ITEM	PRESENTATION TOPICS	SPEAKER	TIME
1	Introduction	Sir Trevor Hassell	5 minutes 10:00 a.m – 10:07 a.m
2	The Public Health Exception in International Trade Law	Mrs. Nicole Foster	45 minutes 10:07 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.
3	The WTO Tobacco Plain Packaging Dispute; Lessons Learnt for Health Policy Making		
4	Health Policy at the Multilateral Level: The Need for Policy Coherence		
5	Moderated Q & A and Closing Remarks	Moderator: Sir Trevor Hassell	20 minutes 10:55 a.m -11:15 a.m

Presentation Contents

Agenda Item 1: Introduction

Agenda Item 2: The Public Health Exception in International Trade Law

- Article XX GATT / Article XIV GATS
- Article 2 TBT Agreement

Agenda Item 3: The WTO Tobacco Plain Packaging Dispute: Lessons Learnt for Health Policy Making

- Break down/case study of the plain packaging case and the lessons for health professionals in terms of exploiting the flexibility that currently exists within the international trade framework/regime

Agenda Item 4: Health policy at the Multilateral Level: The Need for Policy Coherence

- Work within WTO TBT Committee
- Work within Codex Alimentarius
- Work within PAHO/WHO
- Work within the UN General Assembly

Agenda Item 5: Moderated Q&A