

# Exploring Opportunities for Greater Policy Coherence in Support of the 25\*25 Targets & SDGs: Trade

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Nicole D. Foster  
Law Lecturer, UWI Cave Hill &  
Policy Advisor, Healthy Caribbean Coalition

Nicole D. Foster April 25, 2018

# GENERAL COMMENT

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- There is no inevitable/unavoidable conflict between international trade rules and efforts to prevent and control NCDs.
- Key considerations: non-discriminatory? evidence based? based on an international standard? other reasonably available less trade restrictive alternatives available?
- More has to be done to exploit and build on the existing policy space provided in individual WTO agreements as well as through the public health general exceptions clause in support of NCDs prevention and control goals.

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATER COHERENCE

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- Current problem:
  - Inadequate coordination and information-sharing between and among Ministries as well between Missions/Embassies.
  - Limited/insufficient presence within some negotiations e.g. WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Committee / Codex Alimentarius (labelling)

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATER COHERENCE

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- Way Forward:
  - Better coordination and sharing of information within and between Ministries.
  - Active participation and engagement on multilateral front, across multiple fora by:

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATER COHERENCE

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## a) Leveraging Missions/Embassies

- Have the CCH IV priorities agreed by CMOs been shared with our Missions/Embassies in Geneva and New York so that they can be integrated into trade discussions/negotiations relevant to NCDs/healthy lifestyles?
- Do we have identified persons in capitals that Mission/Embassy staff can liaise with even on an informal basis in order to get a better understanding of the local situation and how this might be impacted by/fed into on-going negotiations and other meetings?

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATER COHERENCE

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- b) Leveraging international organisations/partners (UNCTAD, FAO, WTO, WHO/PAHO)
  - Recall discussion by Ambassador Hart of the positive spin offs coming out of the recent NCDs meeting at the OAS and what this can mean in terms of coalition building etc to get our message across more effectively and generate consensus on our positions. .

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATER COHERENCE

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- More diversified delegations/input for negotiations e.g Barbados experience re TRIPS & Public Health negotiations.
- Integration of NCD concerns into trade negotiations/agreements. e.g. Singapore & Australia; Pacific Islands re their Economic Partnership Agreement with the EU etc; the CARIFORUM/EU Economic Partnership agreement provisions re the WTO TRIPS & Public Health Declaration.

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATER COHERENCE

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- Strategic partnerships with like-minded states  
e.g Chile, Mexico / GRULAC more  
generally; Pacific Islands etc.



THANK YOU

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THE END

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