



NEWS RELEASE

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MEXICO DETAILED ITS STRATEGIES TO TACKLE NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK CITY

- *The Mexican Secretary of Health, Doctor Mercedes Juan, talked thoroughly about the public policies that the Mexican Government has implemented regarding Non-communicable Diseases.*
- *She explained the National Strategy for Prevention and Control of Overweight, Obesity and Diabetes of the Mexican Government.*

In the plenary of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Mexican Secretary of Health, Doctor Mercedes Juan, presented the National Strategy for Prevention and Control of Overweight, Obesity and Diabetes, one of the main public policies that the Mexican Government has implemented in order to fight against three of the greatest health problems in Mexico. The three major axis of this Strategy are public health, medical attention, and regulatory and fiscal policies.

During the High Level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, carried out in the headquarters of the United Nations in New York, Doctor Mercedes Juan talked thoroughly about the actions that the Mexican Government has taken in order to solve these health problems.

Regarding tobacco consumption, Mexico has implemented the Law for Tobacco Control, which was inspired by the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. In this way, Mexico has succeeded in having 100% free-smoking restaurants.



In order to prevent cervical cancer, since three years ago, the 11-year-old girls can be vaccinated against the Human Papilloma Virus. Moreover, Mexico has incorporated this vaccine into the Mexican Universal Vaccination Scheme.

Regarding acute lymphoblastic leukemia, the main type of cancer affecting children, Mexico has an 84% survival out of 1,533 cases.

The Mexican Government has taken concrete actions to face the challenge that non-communicable diseases represent: according to the National Survey of Health and Nutrition (2012), approximately 70% of the adult population is overweight or obese; in the case of children it is 30%. Around 9.2% of the general population suffers diabetes.

Regarding prevention, the main aim of the National Strategy for Prevention and Control of Overweight, Obesity and Diabetes is to induce deep changes in terms of healthy lifestyles, healthy consumption habits and physical activity.

In terms of medical attention, through multidisciplinary interventions, a Comprehensive Care Center for Diabetic Patients was activated and this model will be replied all over the Mexican Republic.

Regarding Sanitary Regulations and Fiscal Policies applicable to food and beverages, a mandatory frontal label that expresses the caloric content of the product and what its consumption represents in terms of a 2000-calory daily diet was implemented.

A nutritional label was created to be granted to products that comply with the nutritional standards, established by the Mexican Ministry of Health. Moreover, junk-food advertising in TV has been banned from children schedules.

As from 2014, a special tax entered into force to tax sugary drinks as well as another special tax for food with high caloric density (8% per 100 grams).

Doctor Mercedes Juan said that, regionally, a technical work team was established with Canada and the United States

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of America. In the bilateral level, cooperation actions with France were established.



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