

**Interagency Committee on Smoking and Health**  
**April 13, 2005**  
**“Addressing the Global Tobacco Epidemic”**  
**Country Presentations — Presentation Notes**

**Mauricio Hernandez Avila, MD, DSc., General Director, Instituto Nacional De Salud Publica, Mexico**

Mexico has made great strides over the past several decades in bringing down prevalence rates and insuring that people are protected from the effects of secondhand smoke. Dr. Hernandez Avila talked about the recent excise tax increase in the country bringing it to 110% for all types of tobacco and tax as a proportion of cigarette price is now close to 51%. While the tax has had a positive influence on consumption, the clean indoor air policy has not been quite as effective because it is not properly enforced.

Dr. Hernandez Avila talked briefly about the Global Youth Tobacco Survey and its usefulness as a tool to evaluate the enforce the FCTC. However, dissemination of the results is critical and we are not doing as good a job as we should in getting the data published and shared.

Four proposals for improving global tobacco control efforts were offered to the Committee:

- Involve World Bank and Inter–American Development Bank in supporting healthy tobacco policies;
- Build capacity through regional courses on tobacco control and prevention;
- Create regional centers for studying smoking patterns, analyzing data, and publishing results; and
- Increase funding for tobacco control.

Dr. Hernandez Avila closed by expressing his appreciation for a strong collaboration with CDC and noting that a Mexican counterpart for the Surgeon General’s report was to be released in May 2005.