

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

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Ms. Wellington began by discussing findings from the Global Youth Tobacco Survey in Ghana. Conducted in 2000 with 1917 students participating, key findings included 4.8% of students currently smoking with 17.2% using other tobacco products; 21.9% of these young people live in homes where others smoke, and 15.1% were offered “free” cigarettes by a tobacco company representative. As a result of these data, several policy interventions were initiated, including the establishment of a National Tobacco Control Committee, drafting of the Comprehensive Tobacco Control Bill, and ratification of the FCTC. The GYTS was also used as a vehicle for the development of partnerships between government agencies, parliamentarians, hospitality industry, media, non-governmental agencies and international partners such as the WHO and CDC. Results from the study were widely disseminated through workshops, radio and TV talk shows and print media. The results were also the basis for the development of programs such as school health education, cessation counseling centers and for a better understanding of the importance of smoke-free public places.

Ms. Wellington’s recommendations for the future include:

- Development of a national tobacco control action plan;
- Training teachers and the development of a comprehensive education plan;
- Development of an implementation strategy for FCTC; and
- Working with Parliamentarians to support and endorse the country’s tobacco control bill promoting smoke-free public places.
- Establishment of cessation counseling centers at all health facilities.