



Personal information

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Alejandro Ramos Carbajales, M.Sc.

Education

- Master of Science in Economics - Iowa State University, USA 1979
- Economist – UDELAR (University of the Republic of Uruguay, School of Economics and Business Administration) 1974

Work experience.

Independent consultant and researcher in NCD risks control, cost effectiveness analysis of health investments, health policy, health economics, tobacco taxation, demand for tobacco products, Illicit tobacco trade. Background in the preparation of reports and background papers on tobacco control policies to the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization and other international agencies. Work on the economic evaluation of health policies and health sector reform in several Latin American countries for the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB) and World Bank as a part-time independent consultant. Previously senior adviser in Uruguay at the Ministries of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Health and the Office of Management and Budget of the Presidency. (1974-1988), Chief Financial Officer at the city government of Montevideo, Uruguay (1988-1990). Led a World Bank project in Uruguay on Health Sector Strengthening (Ministry of Health, 1995-2001).

Consulting work on NCD and health risks

- **IAHF Scorecard Project.**
 - **Phase 2** (2022-present). Leads the preparation of updated material about NCD risks control policies in 12 Latin American countries (LAC), using a revised

questionnaire to civil society and experts. The project aims at producing a new scorecard type regional report on CVD and NCD health risks (tobacco, alcohol, unhealthy diets, sedentarism, air pollution) and prepare country reports for 10 countries with policy recommendations from the civil society's perspective.

- **Phase I.** Led work on the preparation of questionnaires, wrote a report on the implementation of NCD control policies and their associated health risks for 12 LAC countries (2017-2018).

- Wrote five reports and a Summary on NCD risks “Cost-effective strategies to reduce effects of unhealthy lifestyles in Latin America” for the Inter-American Bank, IADB in 2002. Work consisted of the review of economic scientific literature on cost-benefit and cost-effective health strategies to deal with overweight and obesity, diabetes, tobacco & alcohol abuse, sedentary lifestyles and other risk factors. The report included recommendations for government and health sector policy in Latin America (in Spanish, unpublished).

Consulting work in taxation, illicit trade and tobacco control.

- Illicit tobacco trade consultant in the preparation of a report in Mexico (2021-2022), for the UABCS (Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur).
- Advised the Ministry of Health and the government of Paraguay on tobacco tax reform (funded by a Union grant to Libre de Tabaco, a Paraguayan NGO, Jan-October 2019).
- Wrote a report for the World Bank on illicit trade control policy in Uruguay, April-July 2018.
- Led a team of researchers in an American Cancer Society sponsored study in Uruguay: “Tobacco illicit trade in MERCOSUR: challenges and opportunities” (Nov. 2016 –March 2017).
- Performed desk research work and wrote background papers on illicit trade in cigarettes in Canada, Ireland, Singapore and Malaysia for the World Bank (2014, unpublished) providing evidence to counteract tobacco industry’s efforts to discredit tax increases.
- Tobacco tax increases in Peru. Coordinated a team of economists doing demand for tobacco research and advising the Ministry of Finance and the Peruvian non- profit COLAT on tax policy and reform to increase tobacco taxes and prices (2013- 2014).
- Tobacco Taxes and Tobacco Control policies in Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay, Research Project (2013). In charge of the Uruguay Section. Interamerican Heart Foundation of Mexico and ACT-Brazil. Funded by the Canadian International Development Research Center (IDRC).
- Coordinator of the Project “Raising tobacco taxes in selected countries of Central America”. Research and advocacy project funded by the IDRC of Canada in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador (2011-2013).
- Advised the Ministries of Finance of Paraguay and Guatemala on tobacco tax increases, tax reform, tobacco illicit trade (2009-2012), prepared draft tobacco tax legislation in both countries.
- Led a five country (Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Panama, and Guatemala) time series econometric study on the aggregate demand for tobacco products and simulation of new tax policies to raise prices, reduce affordability and demand (2009).
- Advised the Ministry of Health of Mexico on tobacco tax reform. Consultant to the Union against Tuberculosis and Respiratory diseases (The Union, 2009).
- Led a group of researchers from Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil in the first independent attempt to measure and understand illicit tobacco trade in the South American Region (Funded by the IDRC, 2007-2008).

Previous consultant work

Consultant to the International Development Bank (1990-1995), work in Panama, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Paraguay, and Peru in preparation of loan requests (work in economic project evaluation, health policy analysis and strengthening of the public health sector).

Government work in Uruguay

Co-director of a Health Sector Strengthening Project for the Ministry of Health, funded by the World Bank, Montevideo 1995-2000

Economic Advisor. Minister of Health. 1995-2000.

Chief Economic Advisors Division, Ministry of Economy and Finance 1985-1988

Chief Financial Officer. City Government of Montevideo, Uruguay – 1988-1990

Sub-director of Planning Division – Office of Planning and Budget of the Presidency. 1983-84.

Recent Research & publications

“Confronting Illicit Tobacco Trade: A Global Review of Country Experiences” (Chapter 13: Uruguay. Tackling illicit tobacco trade.) The World Bank, 2018
<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/521371548435125816/WBG-Tobacco-IllicitTrade-Uruguay.pdf>

Ramos-Carbajales A, González-Rozada M, Vallarino H. La demanda de cigarrillos y el aumento de impuestos en El Salvador. *Rev Panam Salud Publica*. 2016;40(4):237-42.

Gonzalez-Rozada M, Ramos-Carbajales A. Implications of raising cigarette excise taxes in Peru. *Rev Panam Salud Publica*. 2016;40(4):250–5.

“Distributional effects of tobacco tax increases: evidence from Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay.” Working paper with Martin Gonzalez Rozada (Argentina) and Belen Saenz de Miera (México). INSP, México, 2014.

Ramos Carbajales, A; Clemente, A; González Rozada, M. Impuestos al tabaco y políticas para el control del tabaco en Uruguay. Fundación Interamericana del Corazón, México 2013.
http://ficmexico.org/fictabaco/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/uruguay_web.pdf

World Health Organization (WHO) Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic. GTCR III, IV, V, VI, VII. July-Dec. 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018. Led data collection of cigarette and other tobacco taxes and prices, analyzed tax legislation, and performed calculation of cigarette tax burden for 32 Latin American and Caribbean countries in the Americas (AMRO region).

“Avances y problemas en las políticas de aumentos de los impuestos a los productos de tabaco en los países de América Latina. Published by the Journal of INSP, México 2012
http://media.controltabaco.mx/content/productos/ETJ/SPT_Vol_I.pdf Pg 166.

Lieberman J, Blecher E, Ramos A, et al. Opportunities and risks of the proposed FCTC protocol on illicit trade. *Tob Control* 2011; 20:6, 436-8.

Ramos, A Curti, D. Política fiscal, asequibilidad y efectos cruzados de precios en la demanda de productos de tabaco: el caso de Uruguay. Revista del Instituto de Salud Pública de México. Vol. 52 (2010) Suplemento 2.

<http://saludpublica.mx/index.php/spm/article/view/4971/4819>

Wrote a working paper in cooperation with Dardo Curti on the economic impact of 100% smoke free public places in the restaurant and bar business sector of Uruguay. (PAHO, 2007).

Ramos, A Curti, D. Economía del control del tabaco en los países del Mercosur y Estados Asociados: Uruguay. Oficina Panamericana de la Salud, Washington, D.C. 2006. http://www.who.int/tobacco/research/economics/publications/mercorsur_studies/en/index.

Ramos, A. "The illegal trade in tobacco in the Mercosur Countries". Published in: Trends Organized Crime 2009; 12:267-306. Another link in English: http://www.ftc.org/images/stories/INB-3/INB3_report_illegal_trade_in_MERCOSUR.pdf. A synthesis in: <http://www.ftc.org/media-and-publications-20/fact-sheets/illicit-trade/278-inb3-fact-sheet-illicit-trade-in-mercorsur>.

Credentials

- Member of the Board (at large). World Heart Federation (WHF), Jan 1st, 2021 to Dec 31st 2022.
- Advisor to the Interamerican Heart Foundation (since 2017)
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Framework Convention Alliance on tobacco control (FCA) representing the Americas and the Caribbean (AMRO region, period Jan. 1, 2016- Dec.31 2019)
 - Member of the Policy List of the FCA since 2008
 - Member of the tobacco tax and Illicit trade committees since 2008
- Member of the Board of Directors, Interamerican Heart Foundation in Argentina (FIC Argentina). Jan. 1, 2017 – July 2019.

August 2022