

**Djibril Wele, Executive Secretary Ligue Sénégalaise contre le tabac (LISTAB) :**

Good Morning Everybody.

My name is Djibril Wélé. I am the executive secretary of LISTAB, the Senegalese Tobacco Control League. I am also member of the Taxawu Santé Coalition which works for the advocacy of tobacco taxation in Senegal.

Raising taxation on tobacco products is designed to increase financial revenues in order to support the budgets of many health programs in the country. Why increase taxation on tobacco products? It has two major advantages.

The first is to raise income in order to supplement the budgets of health programs. The second is to help decrease the smoking prevalence among the youth. As we know, tobacco consumption is heavier in this segment of the population and represents the basic target of the tobacco industry. Raising taxes on tobacco product can at least decrease the smoking prevalence among the youth by at least 10% according to studies from the WHO.

This is one of the priorities that the COP (Conferences Organized in Paris) should take into consideration. There must be a harmonized program from all countries towards an adoption of ongoing taxation in order to generate extra resources and strengthen its advocacy so that these revenues be exclusively directed to health programs. We want this to be a main theme at the next COP conference.

Thank you!