



**TOBACCO AND
NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates
17-21 March 2015 **WCTOH.org**

Statement on Travel Visas for WCTOH

We are pleased to welcome more than 2,000 people from over 100 countries for the 16th World Conference on Tobacco or Health (WCTOH). Every country sets its own policies that regulate the process for obtaining travel visas. For this WCTOH, approximately sixty people have been unable to obtain a visa to attend. The Union, which serves as the permanent secretariat for the WCTOH, has hosted international conferences in every region of the world over the course of more than fifty years. Each country we've been to faces visa challenges. In many countries, far more people have faced visa problems than did this year. We have been working diligently to assist people who have encountered such problems for this WCTOH and many of those we've worked with were successful and will join us for the conference. We empathize with those who are unable to attend. We will truly miss their contributions to the conference. Despite the visa challenges, we remain fully committed to taking on the big issues around tobacco control to help save a billion people's lives from over the next century.

Jose Luis Castro
Executive Director
International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union)