



A MEMBERSHIP ORGANISATION
FIGHTING CANCER TOGETHER

Union for International Cancer Control

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Dr Tabaré Vázquez

President of Uruguay

A medical doctor by training, specialised in oncology and radiotherapy, President Vázquez assumed his first term as President of the Republic of Uruguay in 2005.

During his first term in office he promoted a reform of the health system encompassing changes in the management, care and financing models to support universal coverage. He also initiated strategies focusing on prevention, leading several anti-smoking campaigns and supporting recommendations by the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. These actions made Uruguay a regional and international reference point in the promotion of smoking cessation. President Vázquez played a major role in Uruguay's victory against Philip Morris International in court in 2016 to ensure the health risks associated with smoking were visible on cigarette packaging.

The President's background led him to become Co-Director of the Independent High-Level Commission on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), with the objective to promote innovative strategies to reduce the burden of NCD morbidity and mortality. Thanks to this work he was recently recognised as Hero of Public Health of the Americas by the Pan-American Health Organization in 2018.

The impact of the national health policies he championed can now be seen across the cancer control continuum, from risk-factors reduction, to screening and palliative care coverage.

