



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

FIFTY-SIXTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
Provisional agenda item 13

A56/8 Rev.1*
12 May 2003

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

Note by the Secretariat

1. As agreed at its sixth session (17 February to 1 March 2003), the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control submits to the Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly for its consideration the text of the proposed WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control adopted at its final plenary meeting on 1 March 2003.¹
2. Information on the proceedings of the Negotiating Body is contained in the report by the Chair.² Details on the procedure to be followed for adoption, signature and ratification of the Convention is set out in a separate document.³
3. The resolution below has been amended to reflect comments made at a meeting of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva with the Chair of the Negotiating Body (22 April 2003).

ACTION BY THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

4. The Health Assembly is invited to consider the following draft resolution which was drafted by the Chair as agreed by the Negotiating Body at its final plenary meeting on 1 March 2003.⁴

The Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions WHA49.17 and WHA52.18 calling for the development of a WHO framework convention on tobacco control in accordance with Article 19 of the Constitution of WHO;

Determined to protect present and future generations from tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke;

* The Annex remains unchanged and is not reproduced here.

¹ Document A56/8, Annex.

² Document A56/INF.DOC./7 Rev.1.

³ Document A56/INF.DOC./2.

⁴ Document A/FCTC/INB6/PL/SR/4, section 3.

Noting with profound concern the escalation in smoking and other forms of tobacco use worldwide;

Acknowledging with appreciation the report of the Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body on the outcome of the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body;¹

Convinced that this convention is a groundbreaking step in advancing national, regional and international action and global cooperation to protect human health against the devastating impact of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke, and mindful that special consideration should be given to the particular situation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

Emphasizing the need for expeditious entry into force and effective implementation of the convention,

1. ADOPTS the Convention attached to this resolution;
2. NOTES, in accordance with Article 34 of the Convention, that the Convention shall be open for signature at WHO headquarters in Geneva, from 16 June 2003 to 22 June 2003, and thereafter at United Nations headquarters in New York, from 30 June 2003 to 29 June 2004;
3. CALLS UPON all States and regional economic integration organizations entitled to do so, to consider signing, ratifying, accepting, approving, formally confirming or acceding to the Convention at the earliest opportunity, with a view to bringing the Convention into force as soon as possible;
4. URGES all States and regional economic integration organizations, pending entry into force of the Convention, to take all appropriate measures to curb tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke;
5. URGES all Member States, regional economic integration organizations, observers and other interested parties to support the preparatory activities referred to in this resolution and effectively encourage prompt entry into force and implementation of the Convention;
6. CALLS UPON the United Nations to continue to provide support for strengthening national and international tobacco control programmes;
7. DECIDES to establish, in accordance with Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly, an open-ended intergovernmental working group that shall be open to all States and regional economic integration organizations referred to in Article 34 of the Convention, to consider and prepare proposals on those issues identified in the Convention for consideration and adoption, as appropriate, by the first session of the Conference of the Parties; such issues should include:
 - (1) rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties (Article 23.3), including criteria for participation of observers at sessions of the Conference of the Parties (Article 23.6);

¹ Document A56/INF.DOC./7.

- (2) options for the designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning (Article 24.1);
 - (3) financial rules for the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, and financial provisions governing the functioning of the secretariat (Article 23.4);
 - (4) a draft budget for the first financial period (Article 23.4);
 - (5) a review of existing and potential sources and mechanisms of assistance to Parties in meeting their obligations under the Convention (Article 26.5);
8. FURTHER DECIDES that the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group shall also oversee preparations for the first session of the Conference of the Parties and report directly to it;
9. RESOLVES that decisions that had been taken by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body on the WHO framework convention on tobacco control concerning the participation of nongovernmental organizations shall apply to the activities of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group;
10. REQUESTS the Director-General:
- (1) to provide secretariat functions under the Convention until such time as a permanent secretariat is designated and established;
 - (2) to take appropriate steps to provide support to Member States, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in preparation for entry into force of the Convention;
 - (3) to convene, as frequently as necessary, between 16 June 2003 and the first session of the Conference of the Parties, meetings of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group;
 - (4) to continue to ensure that WHO plays a key role in providing technical advice, direction and support for global tobacco control;
 - (5) to keep the Health Assembly informed of progress made toward entry into force of the Convention and of preparations under way for the first session of the Conference of the Parties.

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