

Interim performance report for the 2008–2009 budget and workplan

Report of the Convention Secretariat

1. An interim report on implementation of the 2008–2009 budget and workplan was requested by the Conference of the Parties at its second session (decision FCTC/COP2(11)). This report, prepared by the Convention Secretariat, covers the first six months of implementation of the workplan (1 January – 30 June 2008). It also includes information on activities undertaken in late 2007 in the framework of the workplan and budget for the biennium 2008–2009 in order to respect the timeline determined by the Conference for the working groups on Articles 5.3, 9 and 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the Convention.
2. The review follows the budget structure approved by the Conference of the Parties at its second session (decision FCTC/COP2(11)). The WHO model for mid-term performance reports to Member States was used, as recommended by the Conference of the Parties.
3. Progress on tasks and targets is rated in three categories: “achieved”, “on course” and “requiring action to overcome risks”.

SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (ARTICLE 24.3(A))

Targets to be met:

4. *Convening the third session of the Conference of the Parties:*

On course. Arrangements by the Convention Secretariat, in cooperation with WHO's service units and in consultation with the Bureau, are well advanced. Documentation is progressing according to plan, and advance information was sent to the Parties in May 2008 in order to assist with timely preparation. Arrangements with the host Government were initiated in early 2008; the venue of the meeting was selected and subsequently confirmed by the Bureau. Other arrangements are in progress but may require additional effort in order to respect the timeline. The preparatory work is summarized in document FCTC/COP/3/3.

REPORTING SYSTEM UNDER THE CONVENTION AND SUPPORT TO PARTIES IN FULFILLING THIS OBLIGATION (ARTICLE 24.3(B) AND (C))

5. Work in this area includes collection and analysis of the initial (two-year) implementation reports by Parties; revision of the first phase of the reporting instrument and preparation of its second phase; support to Parties in preparing and submitting their implementation reports, and preparing a summary analysis of progress being made internationally in implementation of the Convention.

Targets to be met:

6. *Revised reporting instrument, including Group 2 questions submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its third session (Document FCTC/COP/3/16)*

Achieved. The Convention Secretariat prepared a revised format of the Group 1 questions, as requested, which was approved by the Bureau for provisional use, pending a final decision at the third session of the Conference of the Parties. It also prepared a proposal for Group 2 questions, with the guidance of the Bureau and in cooperation with WHO and other international experts, which is submitted for consideration to the Conference of the Parties at its third session.

7. *Technical assistance to 25 Parties in preparing their reports*

On course. Regular contact has been maintained with Parties, including answering requests for clarification, assistance with the reporting instrument, data sources and links to national monitoring mechanisms. Assistance was also provided during individual meetings, when requested. Regional workshops, scheduled to be held in August–October 2008, with the participation of more than 50 Parties, are being organized with the WHO regional offices. One of the main subjects was the reporting obligations of Parties, including the revised reporting instrument and lessons learnt internationally. It is expected that the number of Parties that will have received assistance from the Convention Secretariat in this area will be well above the targeted figure by the end of 2009. The Secretariat will extend individual assistance to Parties after the regional workshops.

8. *Preparation of two summary reports*

On course for the activities of the Convention Secretariat but action needed to overcome external risks. The 2008 summary report on progress being made internationally in implementation of the Convention was prepared and submitted to the third session of the Conference of the Parties (document FCTC/COP/3/14). The next annual report will be prepared during the last quarter of 2009 to ensure that the maximum number of Parties' two-year reports is covered; that report will be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session, in 2010. A particular concern is, however, the relatively large number of Parties, close to 50, that have not yet submitted their reports and have not requested assistance in that respect.

REPORTS OF THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT (ARTICLE 24.3(D))

9. Work in this area includes preparation and submission of the report of the Convention Secretariat on its activities between the second and third sessions of the Conference of the Parties and the reports of the working groups and the study group established by the Conference.

Targets to be achieved:

10. *Report on the activities of the Convention Secretariat*

Achieved. The report of the Convention Secretariat on progress made since the first session of the Conference of the Parties was prepared and submitted 60 days before the third session of the Conference, as required (document FCTC/COP/3/3). The report covers the status of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; activities for implementation of the decisions of the second session of the Conference; arrangements related to other articles of the Convention and decisions of the Conference; coordination with intergovernmental and other organizations; and preparations for the third session of the Conference.

11. *Reports on the preparation of guidelines on Articles 5.3, 9 and 10, 11, 12 and 13 and on the work of the study group on economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing*

Achieved. The reports of all five working groups for the elaboration of draft guidelines on Articles 5.3, 11 and 13 and information on progress made on Articles 9 and 10 and 12 have been prepared and are scheduled to be submitted on time.¹ Parties were invited to make comments on the draft guidelines and progress reports six months before the third session of the Conference, as stated in decisions FCTC/COP2(8) and FCTC/COP2(14). The report of the study group on economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing, resulting from the second meeting of the group, is on course to be submitted to the Conference on time.²

¹ Documents FCTC/COP/3/5, FCTC/COP/3/6, FCTC/COP/3/7, FCTC/COP/3/8 and FCTC/COP/3/9.

² Document FCTC/COP/3/11.

COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELEVANT BODIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS (ARTICLE 24.3(E) AND (F))

12. The work in this area includes establishing and extending cooperation with relevant international partners, support to Parties in assessing their needs and resources for implementation and support for the work of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties.

Targets to be achieved:

13. *Process for identification and initiation of cooperation with relevant bodies and competent organizations established and implemented, and at least three partnership agreements concluded*

On course. Cooperation and partnerships were established with several intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, particularly in relation to preparations for the third session of the Conference of the Parties and the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body, the working groups preparing guidelines and the study group on economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing. Coordination with several other international bodies was discussed and initiated, and we expect to conclude at least five partnership agreements formally by the end of 2009. Work in this area is described in detail in the report on progress made since the first session of the Conference (document FCTC/COP/3/3).

14. *Bureau meetings (on average, quarterly) to address intersessional issues*

Achieved for 2008 and under way for 2009. The Convention Secretariat provided support to the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties by organizing three face-to-face meetings in October 2007 and January and April 2008, two video and audio conferences, in May and July 2008, and a meeting in October 2008. The Bureau took decisions on upcoming sessions of the Conference and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body, the preparation of guidelines by the working groups, the revised reporting instrument for provisional use and other issues related to the work of the Conference. Further meetings of the Bureau will be planned after the third session of the Conference. Work in this area is described in the report on progress made since the first session of the Conference (document FCTC/COP/3/3).

15. *Assistance to Parties in assessing their needs and resources for implementation (with the aim of providing assistance to at least 18 Parties)*

Action needed to overcome risks. This component was begun only recently as time was needed to obtain the relevant capacity in the Convention Secretariat, and because highest priority was given to activities with strict deadlines, such as convening the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body and preparing several draft guidelines by spring 2008. The work is now under way, with updating of the database on internationally available resources and co-organization of regional and subregional workshops with the WHO regional offices in late summer and early autumn 2008. It is planned to support nearly 20 Parties in assessing their needs and accessing internationally available resources by mid-2009, for example by assisting in the preparation of projects on treaty-specific issues, after group and bilateral reviews of potential resources and mechanisms of assistance in regional workshops. A preliminary list of Parties willing to enter into arrangements for bilateral cooperation and assistance will be ready before the third session of the Conference of the Parties. The relatively small budget for this work in the 2008–2009 workplan, is, however, an impediment, as all interested Parties might not be covered. The Convention Secretariat is planning a substantial resource mobilization campaign immediately after the third session of the Conference of the Parties, and will

report on its outcome in the final performance report for the 2008–2009 budget, to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session.

ELABORATION OF GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES (ARTICLE 24.3(G))

16. This area includes support for the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body and for the working groups and the study group established by the Conference of the Parties. It also includes technical assistance to Parties on treaty-specific issues.

Targets to be achieved:

17. *Meetings of working groups on Articles 5.3, 9 and 10, 11, 12 and 13, as requested by the Conference of the Parties*

Achieved. The Convention Secretariat provided all necessary assistance for the organization of meetings of the five working groups established by the Conference of the Parties for the preparation of guidelines. All the working groups convened their meetings as planned; three (Articles 5.3, 11 and 13) produced draft guidelines, and two (Articles 9 and 10 and 12) produced draft progress reports. The composition of the working groups and the meetings held are described in document FCTC/COP/3/3.

18. *Meeting of the study group on economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing*

Achieved. The second meeting of the study group was convened on 17–19 June 2008 in Mexico City. The group reviewed national and international experiences and evidence and prepared a report covering a national policy framework to promote alternative development and key policy aspects, such as crop substitution and profitability, alternative livelihoods beyond crop substitution, and counteracting corporate practices that undermine the promotion of economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing. The report of the study group is contained in document FCTC/COP/3/11, and further information is given in document FCTC/COP/3/3.

19. *Technical assistance provided to Parties, for example in subregional and country workshops, for implementation of measures in the Convention that have deadlines (with the aim of providing assistance to at least 15 countries)*

On course. Five regional and subregional workshops were prepared jointly with the WHO regional offices and are scheduled to take place between August and October 2008. The aim of the workshops is to provide information and assistance on topics including treaty-specific measures that have deadlines, such as reporting obligations of the Parties, and issues related to Article 11 (Packaging and labelling of tobacco products) and Article 13 (Tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship). Detailed assistance is planned to be provided to 16–18 Parties on these issues. Details of the regional workshops, their outcomes and aspects of bilateral assistance to Parties are contained in document FCTC/COP/3/12 and will also be included in the presentation of the Convention Secretariat to the Conference of the Parties at its third session.

20. *Sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body on a Protocol on Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products*

On course. The first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body was held on 11–16 February 2008 in Geneva. The Convention Secretariat assured all the organizational, technical and budgetary arrangements for the first session, as requested by the Conference of the Parties. Representatives of 132 Parties, 20 States non-Parties, three intergovernmental organizations and nine nongovernmental organizations participated in the session. Preparatory work is under way for the second session, to be held in Geneva on 20–25 October 2008, and a preliminary review of options for the date and venue of the third session has been initiated. The progress report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to the third session of the Conference of the Parties is contained in document FCTC/COP/3/4.

ANNEX

Table 1. Financial implementation (in US\$) for the period 1 January – 30 June 2008

| Approved budget 2008–2009 | Available funds | | | | Expenditure | | | Balance |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------|---------|
| | Funds carried-over from 2006–2007 | Voluntary assessed contributions | Other income | Total | Programme implementation | Programme support cost | Total | |
| 12 960 000 ¹ | 2 675 905 ² | 1 311 383 ³ | 268 | 3 987 556 | 2 839 776 | 411 559 | 3 251 335 | 736 221 |

¹ The total budget approved by the Conference of the Parties, including for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body according to Annex 2 of decision FCTC/COP2(11).

² Actual carry-over fund on 31 December 2007 is net of US\$ 416 207 corresponding to the early commencement of 2008–2009 workplan in late 2007 in order to meet the timeline of the elaboration of guidelines by the working groups established by the Conference of the Parties.

³ Includes US\$ 362 649 payments of arrears for 2006–2007 voluntary assessed contributions.

Table 2. Distribution of income and expenditures (in US\$)**A. Income**

Voluntary assessed contributions

| | Number of Parties | Parties who have fully/or partially made payment | Parties who have not made payment | Total voluntary assessed contributions | Total paid voluntary assessed contributions | Total outstanding voluntary assessed contributions |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| After the time of COP2 ⁴ | 146 | 19/5 | 122 | 8 010 000 | 948 734 | 7 061 266 |
| After COP2 | 7 | 0/0 | 7 | 3 398 | 0 | 3 398 |
| Total | 153 | 19/5 | 129 | 8 013 398 | 948 734 | 7 064 664 |

Add: Payment of arrears from 2006–2007 voluntary assessed contributions received in 2008 362 649
Other income 268

Grand total 1 311 651

⁴ COP2 – The second session of the Conference of the Parties

B. Expenditures

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Activities | 2 066 107 |
| Salaries | 773 669 |
| Programme support cost | 411 559 |
| Total | 3 251 335 |

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