



WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

**Conference of the Parties to the
WHO Framework Convention
on Tobacco Control**

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Agenda item 7.8

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Review of the role of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties

Note by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties

1. The current role of the Bureau has been defined in the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, which refer mainly to organizational and procedural matters related to the preparation of the provisional agenda of each session of the Conference of the Parties, the examination of credentials and all other functions requested by the Conference of the Parties.
2. The Conference of the Parties has also conferred on the Bureau ad hoc functions, such as the taking of decision on dates and venues of the sessions of the Conference of the Parties, the review and revision of the reporting instrument, the review of the draft implementation guidelines elaborated by working groups, receiving information from the Secretariat on the status of budgets and workplans, and the review of applications of nongovernmental organizations for observer status.
3. Other functions conferred on the President of the Bureau are related to the conduct of the session of the Conference of the Parties.
4. The evolvement of the work of the Bureau and of the Convention Secretariat in implementing the WHO FCTC justifies a reflection on the role of the Bureau in order to adequately meet future challenges.
5. The experience of this Bureau shows that the current organizational arrangements seem to have limitations, such as a lack of clarity about the precise mandate of the Bureau in relation to the evolvement of work in implementing the Convention. For instance, the lack of a mandate to present draft decisions to the Conference of the Parties, the lack of a mandate to handle properly the extension of the contract of the Head of the Secretariat, and unforeseen governance issues. This is hampering the efficient management of the sessions of the Conference of the Parties.

6. Therefore, reflection is needed on clearer identification and description of the functions of the Bureau, particularly for the intersessional periods between the sessions of the Conference of the Parties.

7. The outcome of such a reflection process may lead to initiatives aiming to present to the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties an updated set of functions for the Bureau.

8. In view of the experiences of the present Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, mentioned above, the Conference of the Parties may request the Bureau to further elaborate and present its recommendations on how to address these issues, in addition to any other relevant issues. The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties would present its recommendations to the next regular session of the Conference of the Parties.

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