



WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION  
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

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

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**Provisional agenda item 6.4**

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## **Travel support available to Parties to the WHO FCTC**

### **Report by the Secretariat**

1. Travel support extended to Parties to the WHO FCTC, until and including the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), held in November 2012, stemmed from the practice applied during the negotiations of the Convention, which gave special consideration to securing the participation of delegates from low- and lower-middle-income countries in those negotiations. This practice was followed for participation in the sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies, in particular the sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body on a Protocol on Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products (INB) and the meetings of the intersessional groups established by the COP.
2. Financial support under these arrangements consisted of the provision of an economy air ticket and payment of a subsistence allowance (per diem) for one representative from each low- and lower-middle-income country Party.
3. With a view to harmonizing the travel support available to Parties to the WHO FCTC with WHO administrative policies,<sup>1</sup> the COP decided<sup>2</sup> at its fourth session on financial measures regarding travel support to Parties to the WHO FCTC, until and including the fifth session of the COP. Such measures consisted of the provision of: (a) an economy air ticket and payment of per diem for one delegate from each least developed country (LDC) Party; and (b) an economy air ticket only for one delegate from each of the other low- and lower-middle-income country Parties that are not LDCs. While all Parties acknowledged the importance of wide participation in the work of the COP, that

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<sup>1</sup> See resolutions WHA50.1 and WHA52.9 (available at <http://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/79352>).

<sup>2</sup> Decision FCTC/COP4(21). All COP documents and decisions are available at <http://www.who.int/fctc/publications>.

decision was taken in light of budgetary constraints as a number of Parties considered that more resources should be allocated to activities with the highest priority.

4. Following a lengthy debate on this matter at its fifth session,<sup>1</sup> the COP, while reaffirming its decision to harmonize the travel support available to Parties in line with that of WHO, decided nevertheless, *inter alia*, that travel support would continue to be provided until and including the sixth session of the COP at the same level as decided at its fourth session.<sup>2</sup> In addition, at its fifth session the COP decided that the costs of per diem for low- and lower-middle-income countries that are not LDCs should be financed with resources available in the extrabudgetary funds. Furthermore, the COP requested the Secretariat to take into account its decision on travel support in its proposed budget and workplan for 2016–2017.<sup>3</sup>

5. As requested in decision FCTC/COP5(18), this report provides information on Parties' representation at sessions of the COP and INB and on the level of funds spent on travel support to Parties since the entry into force of the Convention, including the number of Parties that received such support.

6. Further information on relevant practice with regard to travel support in WHO and other treaties of the United Nations system can be found in the document presented to the fifth session of the COP.<sup>4</sup>

### **Parties' representation at sessions of the COP and meetings of subsidiary meetings**

7. Tables 1 and 2 below show the level of representation of Parties in sessions of the COP and INB compared to the total number of Parties at the time of each session, including the number of Parties that were eligible for travel support at each session and those that received such support for one of their nominated delegates. All sessions of the INB were held in Geneva, while only the first session of the COP was held in Geneva.

8. The Parties that are low- and low-middle-income countries at the time of the sixth session of the COP are listed in the Annex to the present document.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See summary records of the proceedings of Committee B of the fifth session of the COP, document FCTC/COP/5/REC/2.

<sup>2</sup> See decision FCTC/COP5(18).

<sup>3</sup> See document FCTC/COP/6/24.

<sup>4</sup> See document FCTC/COP/5/22.

<sup>5</sup> The classification of low- and lower-middle-income countries is based on the World Bank classification (see <http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications/>). The list of least developed countries is obtained from the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries (see <http://unohrlls.org/about-ldcs/>).

**Table 1. Representation of Parties at COP sessions**

	COP1 (2006)	COP2 (2007)	COP3 (2008)	COP4 (2010)	COP5 (2012)	COP6 <sup>1</sup> (2014)
1. Total number of Parties at the time of the session	115	146	160	171	176	179
2. Total number of Parties represented at the session ( <i>percentage compared to row 1, above</i> )	108 (94%)	129 (88%)	130 (81%)	137 (80%)	136 (77%)	-
3. Number low- and lower-middle-income country Parties at the time of the session ( <i>percentage compared to row 1, above</i> )	56 (48%)	69 (47%)	84 (52%)	87 (51%)	81 (46%)	79 (44%)
4. Number of low- and lower-middle-income country Parties represented at the session and that received travel support ( <i>percentage compared to row 3, above</i> )	52 (93%)	67 (97%)	70 (84%)	78 (90%)	61 <sup>2</sup> (75%)	-

**Table 2. Representation of Parties at INB sessions**

	INB1 (2008)	INB2 (2008)	INB3 (2009)	INB4 (2010)	INB5 (2012)
1. Total number of Parties at the time of the session	152	160	165	168	174
2. Total number of Parties represented at the session ( <i>percentage compared to row 1, above</i> )	133 (88%)	129 (80%)	138 (84%)	141 (84%)	131 (75%)
3. Number of low- and lower-middle-income country Parties at the time of the session ( <i>percentage compared to row 1, above</i> )	81 (53%)	87 (67%)	85 (62%)	84 (60%)	80 (61%)
4. Number of low- and lower-middle-income country Parties represented at the INB and that received travel support ( <i>percentage compared to row 3, above</i> )	71 (88%)	75 (86%)	77 (90%)	77 (92%)	64 (80%)

<sup>1</sup> Information on representation of Parties at COP6 was not available at the time of writing this document.

<sup>2</sup> Nominations had been received by the Secretariat from 72 low- and lower-middle-income country Parties to participate in the fifth session of the COP. Financial support was offered to one delegate from each of the 72 Parties. However, 11 Parties cancelled their participation or did not come to the session.

9. Table 1 shows that, while the number of Parties to the WHO FCTC has increased steadily since the first session of the COP (the number of delegates to the COP sessions also increased), the number of Parties attending COP sessions did not follow a similar trend. It also shows that the number of low- and lower-middle-income country Parties accounted for 44% to 52% of the total number of Parties at the time of each session. The actual representation of low- and lower-middle-income country Parties at COP sessions ranges from 97% (COP2) to 75% (COP5) of the total number of such Parties to the Convention; i.e. they were not all represented despite the availability of financial support, and therefore other factors may have influenced their participation.

10. Similarly, the overall representation of Parties at sessions of the INB shows a slight decrease over time. The representation of low- and lower-middle-income country Parties at sessions of the INB ranged from 64% to 77% of the total number of Parties attending.

#### *Intersessional groups established by the COP*

11. Participation in intersessional groups established by the COP is determined by a membership and nomination process established by the COP and the interest expressed by Parties wishing to become a member of these intersessional groups. In the period from the first to the fifth sessions of the COP, 27 meetings have been convened for 12 intersessional groups (working groups, expert groups, study groups, open-ended drafting groups) that have been established by the COP to work on several provisions of the WHO FCTC..

12. On average, the membership of an intersessional group (except for the expert groups for which the number of members is usually limited by the COP to a maximum number of participants per region) ranges from 25 to 50 members, of which approximately half are from low- and lower-middle-income country Parties.

13. As mentioned above, travel support has also been provided to low- and lower-middle-income country Parties participating in meetings of intersessional groups according to the travel policy adopted by the COP at the time of the meeting. Relevant costs have been included in the workplan and budget adopted by the COP for these activities.

#### **Travel support costs**

14. Travel support available to Parties to facilitate their participation in COP sessions has been financed mostly by the voluntary assessed contributions (VAC), as adopted by the COP. When the sessions of the COP are held outside Geneva, additional costs (representing the difference in costs incurred by the Secretariat compared with the costs of a session held in Geneva) are covered by the host country. Travel support for the first, second and fourth sessions of the INB were funded by VAC while for the third and fifth sessions, and the informal workings groups on the Protocol held between the fourth and fifth sessions of the INB, it was funded by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF).

15. Travel support for participation in meetings of the intersessional groups established by the COP has been funded mostly by VAC with extrabudgetary contributions received for some groups.

16. The table below shows the level of funds spent in each financial period to finance travel costs of low- and lower-middle-income countries in meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies.

Table 3. Funds disbursed for travel support to low- and lower-middle-income country Parties (in US\$)

	2006-2007		2008-2009		2010-2011		2012-2013	
	Covered by VAC	Covered by Extrabudgetary funds	Covered by VAC	Covered by Extrabudgetary funds	Covered by VAC	Covered by Extrabudgetary funds	Covered by VAC	Covered by Extrabudgetary funds
COP	880,700		500,149	-	532,442	7,286	220,142	3,272
INB			1,139,606	460,467	378,491	100,910	74,606	257,332
Intersessional working groups and regional workshops	400,000		478,051	-	202,093	91,422	29,141	293,039
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,280,700</b>		<b>2,117,806</b>	<b>460,467</b>	<b>1,113,026</b>	<b>199,618</b>	<b>323,889</b>	<b>553,643</b>
<b>GRANDTOTAL</b>	<b>1,280,700</b>		<b>2,578,273</b>		<b>1,312,644</b>		<b>877,532</b>	

17. As mentioned in this report, the travel policy adopted by the COP has been applied since the first session of the COP to both the sessions of the COP and INB and meetings of subsidiary bodies, and has had an impact on both the level of funds allocated for activities and the participation of the Parties concerned.

#### **Average travel costs for meetings held in Geneva**

18. The average cost for one return air ticket to Geneva is estimated at US\$ 2600. For a typical six-day session of the COP held in Geneva, the average per diem per delegate would amount to approximately US\$ 3180, and US\$ 1700 for a typical 3-day meeting of a working group, based on the per diem applicable in Geneva as at 1 July 2014.

#### **Action by the COP**

19. The COP is invited to note the information provided in this document.

## ANNEX

## Parties eligible for travel support

(low- and lower-middle income countries as at 1 August 2014)<sup>1</sup>

<b>Afghanistan</b>	<b>Madagascar</b>
<b>Angola</b>	<b>Mali</b>
Armenia	<b>Mauritania</b>
<b>Bangladesh</b>	Micronesia (Federated States of)
<b>Benin</b>	Mongolia
<b>Bhutan</b>	<b>Myanmar</b>
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Nauru
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	<b>Nepal</b>
<b>Burundi</b>	Nicaragua
Cabo Verde	<b>Niger</b>
<b>Cambodia</b>	Nigeria
Cameroon	Niue
<b>Central African Republic</b>	Pakistan
<b>Chad</b>	Papua New Guinea
<b>Comoros</b>	Paraguay
Congo	Philippines
Cook Islands	Republic of Moldova
Côte d'Ivoire	<b>Rwanda</b>
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Samoa
<b>Democratic Republic of the Congo</b>	<b>Sao Tome and Principe</b>
<b>Djibouti</b>	<b>Senegal</b>
<b>Equatorial Guinea</b>	<b>Sierra Leone</b>
Egypt	<b>Solomon Islands</b>
<b>Ethiopia</b>	Sri Lanka
El Salvador	<b>Sudan</b>
<b>Gambia</b>	Swaziland
Georgia	Syrian Arab Republic
Ghana	Tajikistan
Guatemala	<b>Timor-Leste</b>
<b>Guinea</b>	<b>Togo</b>
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	<b>Tuvalu</b>
Guyana	<b>Uganda</b>
Honduras	Ukraine
India	<b>United Republic of Tanzania</b>
Kenya	Uzbekistan
<b>Kiribati</b>	<b>Vanuatu</b>
Kyrgyzstan	Viet Nam
<b>Lao People's Democratic Republic</b>	<b>Yemen</b>
<b>Lesotho</b>	<b>Zambia</b>
<b>Liberia</b>	

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<sup>1</sup> Parties that are least developed countries are shown in **bold**.