



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING BODY
ON THE WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL**

**A/FCTC/INB5/4 Add.1
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Fifth session

Provisional agenda item 2

Activities since the previous session

Regional intersessional meetings on the WHO framework convention on tobacco control

1. In preparation for the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body, Member States have held intersessional consultations on the framework convention on tobacco control in order to review and evaluate the new Chair's text.¹ This report summarizes those meetings.

SECOND INTERSESSIONAL MEETING FOR THE PACIFIC ISLAND STATES

2. Twelve Member States of the Pacific islands² met for their second intersessional consultation in Nouméa, New Caledonia (19-21 August 2002). The meeting, hosted by Palau, was chaired by Palau and co-chaired by Samoa; Vanuatu acted as rapporteur. Its objectives were to review the new Chair's text, to find consensus on provisions contained in that text, and to develop regional positions to take to both their respective governments for review and the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body. The Pacific island states confirmed the Sydney Agreement on Tobacco Control adopted in October 2001 and agreed and documented a set of negotiating points that reflect their current positions.

FOURTH SOUTH-EAST ASIAN INTERCOUNTRY CONSULTATION

3. The fourth intersessional consultation in the South-East Asia Region (Yangon, 28-30 August 2002), hosted by Myanmar, was attended by delegates from eight States.³ The meeting was chaired by India and co-chaired by Myanmar, with Maldives as rapporteur. Its primary goals were to review the new Chair's text and to reach consensus on regional positions. Delegates reaffirmed their commitment to a strong framework convention and to continuing to work within the region and globally to achieve that outcome. These positions were reflected in the Yangon Declaration adopted at the consultation, the negotiating positions and revised texts prepared as documentation of the meeting.

¹ Document A/FCTC/INB5/2.

² Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

³ Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

SUBREGIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF SOUTH-EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

4. The subregional consultative meeting of south-east European countries (Sofia, 30-31 August 2002), hosted by the Ministry of Health of Bulgaria in collaboration with the Regional Office for Europe, was attended by delegations of eight countries¹ and representatives of WHO at Geneva and in the Regional Office for Europe. Bulgaria, whose Deputy Minister of Health opened the meeting, provided the Chair; Croatia served as co-chair and Romania as rapporteur. Participants reviewed the new Chair's text; a report documented their comments and suggestions on different articles. The eight participating countries generally supported the new Chair's text.

5. The meeting in Sofia formed part of a larger European coordination process which includes other sub-regional consultative meetings in Moscow and Tallinn, European Union's coordination meetings and a Europe-wide consultation in Copenhagen at the end of September.

SECOND INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF MEMBER STATES IN THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)

6. Thailand, in partnership with WHO, hosted the second intersessional meeting for Member States in ASEAN in Bangkok (2-4 September 2002), which was chaired by Thailand, with the Philippines as co-chair and Malaysia and Indonesia acting as rapporteurs. A total of 29 delegates from the 10 ASEAN countries² and seven representatives of nongovernmental organizations participated. The delegates reviewed the new Chair's text and reached consensus on many important issues. Participants endorsed the Bangkok Declaration on Tobacco Control, which is intended to be a tool for briefing their respective governments. It was also agreed that, for those items on which consensus was reached, interventions at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body will present ASEAN positions.

FOURTH SUBREGIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES

7. Some 21 Member States³ in the African Region attended the fourth subregional consultative meeting of African countries (Lilongwe, 2-6 September 2002), hosted by the Government of Malawi, to consider the new Chair's text and to reach consensus on its various articles. Delegates also discussed procedures and strategies for the African group at the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body. Malawi chaired the meeting with Senegal as co-chair and Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria as rapporteurs. They called for solidarity among Member States in negotiating a convention that will intensify tobacco-control initiatives and reached consensus on most items in the Chair's text. Textual amendments were tabulated. Delegates also adopted the Lilongwe Declaration on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

¹ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

² Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

³ Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

SUBREGIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF MEMBER STATES IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

8. The consultative meeting of Member States in the Commonwealth of Independent States (Moscow, 6-7 September 2002), hosted by the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation, was attended by delegates from 11 countries.¹ Heads of delegations chaired the meeting in rotation. Delegates supported the Chair's proposals for a new working method at the forthcoming session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body,² and reached consensus on several major items in the new Chair's text.

SECOND SUBREGIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING IN THE BALTIC REGION

9. The second subregional consultative meeting of Member States in the Baltic region (Tallinn, 9 September 2002), was hosted by the Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia and attended by seven delegates from three countries.³ Estonia chaired the meeting. The countries supported the new Chair's text and agreed with the new working method for the forthcoming fifth session. The consultation was geared towards formulating a regional negotiating position for the forthcoming session of the Negotiating Body.

THIRD REGIONAL SEMINAR OF MEMBER STATES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

10. The Third Regional Seminar of Latin America and the Caribbean on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (Mexico City, 10-13 September 2002), hosted by the Ministry of Health of Mexico in collaboration with PAHO, was attended by delegates from 25 countries.⁴ Mexico chaired the meeting; Brazil and Saint Lucia acted as vice-chairs and Cuba served as rapporteur. A report was produced that summarized the major points of discussion and indicated items on which delegates unanimously agreed with the new Chair's text; areas in which there were suggestions for improvement but no substantive differences; and matters for which substantive changes were proposed. Delegates adopted the Mexico City Declaration on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

¹ Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine.

² See document A/FCTC/INB5/DIV/5.

³ Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

⁴ Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

THIRD INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION

11. The third such intersessional meeting (Manama, 15-20 September 2002), was hosted by the Ministry of Health of Bahrain with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the chair and Bahrain as co-chair.¹ Delegates reviewed the new Chair's text and explored possible protocols and definitions. They also presented updates of national activities on tobacco control. Consensus was reached on many items in the Chair's text. The main agreed negotiating points were tabulated.

EUROPEAN REGION CONSULTATIVE MEETING

12. Delegates from 40 countries² attended the WHO European Region consultative meeting (Helsingør, Denmark 23-24 September 2002), organized by the Regional Office for Europe in order to facilitate European coordination before the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland served as chair and Israel as rapporteur. Overall, delegates supported the new Chair's text and the proposed new method of work for the fifth session. They identified points of general agreement and issues that needed further discussion, and will report back to their governments on the outcome of the meeting. Additional consultations to finalize certain positions will be held on 14 October in Geneva before and, if necessary, during the fifth session. The chair of the consultative meeting will write to the Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body listing the major issues for further debate and endorsing the proposed method of work.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ILLICIT TOBACCO TRADE

13. The International Conference on Illicit Tobacco Trade (New York, 30 July – 1 August 2002) hosted by the United States of America, aimed to advance the prevention of illicit trade in tobacco; to enable officials with experience in tax and revenue, law enforcement, and customs and excise to identify and recommend viable measures or best practices to combat that trade; to create and enhance partnerships and coalitions to facilitate information-sharing and international cooperation for revenue collection and law-enforcement purposes; and to consider measures to provide for an international regulatory standard to reduce the ability of illicit traders to use safe havens as part of their smuggling and diversion schemes. The host country will produce a report for the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body.³

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¹ The meeting was attended by Afghanistan, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

² Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uzbekistan and Yugoslavia.

³ For an executive summary of the report, see <http://www.atf.treas.gov/press/fy02press/080702icittexecsum.htm>