



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

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

**A/FCTC/INB6/4
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Sixth session

Provisional agenda item 2

Activities since the previous session

Progress report

Secretariat update

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL CAPACITY FOR TOBACCO CONTROL

Country-level capacity-building projects

1. WHO's project, "Protecting youth from tobacco in five countries", funded by the United Nations Foundation, continues in China, India, Kenya, Senegal and Ukraine, and is being adapted by the incorporation of national capacity-building elements. Country-level capacity-building projects have also been started, through the provision of seed grants for the initiation or strengthening of self-sustainable tobacco-control programmes, in countries in three regions: Western Pacific Region – Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Philippines, Samoa and Viet Nam (funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, United States of America); Region of the Americas – Costa Rica, Honduras, Jamaica, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay (funded by Japan); and Eastern Mediterranean Region – Djibouti, Morocco, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen (funded by Japan).

2. A capacity-building project has been initiated in several lusophone countries: Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe (African Region), Timor-Leste (South-East Asia Region), Portugal (European Region) and Brazil (Region of the Americas). A francophone countries' project, funded by France, aims to help five French-speaking African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali) to adopt legislative measures relevant to their context and in accordance with the framework convention. National consultants to carry out the assessment phase of this project have been nominated.

3. WHO is preparing background materials for use by countries in their tobacco-control efforts. Country-specific studies for the project on best practices in tobacco control were commissioned with the aim of disseminating information about successful and cost-effective tobacco-control interventions (funding by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). The documents on the first two interventions, taxation and advertising bans, will be issued during the sixth session of the Negotiating Body and reports on the rest are in preparation. WHO has started work on drafting practical guidelines for tobacco control at country level, which will contain information on the experiences gained by the regions and some key countries; the first planning meeting will be held in January 2003. During the sixth session of the Negotiating Body, it is planned to issue the recommendations on smoking-

cessation policy resulting from a meeting hosted by the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow, 14-15 June 2002). A tool kit for formulating legislative guidelines is planned to be issued in May 2003 during the Health Assembly.

Gender and tobacco

4. A fact sheet on gender and tobacco will be launched at a seminar on gender and tobacco during the Negotiating Body's sixth session. The follow-up to WHO's International Conference on Tobacco and Health (Kobe, Japan, 14-18 November 1999) will also be outlined.

Youth-related activities (health promotion and schools)

5. WHO is currently implementing, with the support of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, a project entitled "Clearing the air from tobacco smoke pollution: creating healthy and safe environments for children", which is in its final stages in Latvia and Poland, and starting in China and Viet Nam. A project on "Building alliances and taking action for a generation of tobacco free children and youth", funded by the United Nations Foundation, is entering its third and final phase.

TOBACCO-POLICY ANALYSIS AND COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

Channelling the outrage

6. As part of its capacity-building initiatives, WHO is working on a global initiative entitled "Channelling the outrage", which aims to strengthen the capacity of nongovernmental organizations in tobacco control, particularly in developing countries, and which is funded by the United Nations Foundation. The six regional offices invited proposals from nongovernmental organizations for projects that advocate the development of policies to curb the increasing use of tobacco and support the framework convention. In the Eastern Mediterranean Region, seven such projects are being implemented. Fifteen national nongovernmental organizations, mostly from the eastern part of the European Region, have received grants for projects as part of the "Channelling the outrage" initiative. A WHO monitoring and evaluation mechanism will assess their implementation and impact. Seven nongovernmental organizations in the South-East Asia Region will be participating in this initiative.

World No Tobacco Day 2003

7. The theme for World No Tobacco Day 2003 is "tobacco free film/tobacco free fashion Action!". In November 2002, WHO was joined by medical associations and the "Smoke-free films" project of the University of California in San Francisco (United States of America) in its call to the entertainment and fashion industries to stop promoting a product that kills every second regular user. In particular, the American and Indian film industries were invited to join this global movement to rid films of their tobacco-promoting role.

Activities pursuant to resolution WHA54.18

8. In accordance with resolution WHA54.18 on transparency in the tobacco-control process, WHO continues to support the monthly media monitoring and collection of publicly reported information on tobacco-industry activities, including research on the negative impact of the activities of certain

tobacco corporations on public health and tobacco control. Many nongovernmental organizations contribute to this collection and undertake this research extensively. WHO also works with universities to conduct research on and analysis of tobacco industry tactics.

ASSESSMENT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION: GLOBAL TOBACCO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM AND RESEARCH

Global Youth Tobacco Survey

9. In the Eastern Mediterranean Region, nine Member States are implementing a second round of the Survey. The Survey is currently being conducted in eight countries of central and eastern Europe, and a further six countries in the European Region finalized their country reports in October 2002. Overall, 14 countries of the European Region have now implemented the Survey and 10 more countries are likely to do so later in 2003. A training workshop was organized in December 2002 for six states in India and three Member States of the South-East Asia Region. Eight of the 10 Member States in that Region are now participating in the Survey. A workshop on analysis was also organized for four Member States of the Region and six states in India in December 2002.

Policy making for the Global Youth Tobacco Survey

10. A meeting jointly sponsored by WHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be held in London from 20 to 22 January 2003 to finalize the Survey's data policy and to discuss a data management strategy. In addition, the membership of a steering committee and its terms of reference will be defined.

Reference guidelines for tobacco-use surveys

11. WHO plans to release soon a reference guide on tobacco-use surveys to help to standardize such surveys worldwide. This guide will be an essential tool for monitoring the increasing use of tobacco by ensuring consistency in collection, processing and analysis of data and in the reporting of trends in tobacco-use prevalence in adult populations, and will provide clear recommendations on definitions, questions, indicators and methods to be used in nationwide surveys of tobacco consumption. It is envisaged that a data entry and analysis program EpiInfo 2000 will accompany the reference guide at a later stage. This package is intended to augment the technical capacity of Member States to generate high-quality data through standardized surveys.

Research

12. The Research for International Tobacco Control organization, in collaboration with the Rockefeller Foundation and with the participation of WHO, held a meeting (Ottawa, Canada, 4-6 November 2002) entitled "Bridging the Research Gap in Global Tobacco Control", which aimed to enhance promotion and coordination of research efforts to ensure better use of the knowledge emerging from tobacco control research and that scarce research funds are used to the best advantage and duplicated efforts are avoided. One key outcome was the Ottawa statement on tobacco control research, released by the Research for International Tobacco Control organization.

TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC WORK ON TOBACCO CONTROL

High-Level Round Table on Tobacco Control and Development Policy

13. A High-Level Round Table on Tobacco Control and Development Policy, being organized by the European Commission in cooperation with WHO and the World Bank (Brussels, 3 and 4 February 2003) will be preceded by a workshop for representatives of major development agencies, nongovernmental organizations and foundations. The objectives and related expected outcomes of the Round Table are to present the link between tobacco control and development policy; to raise the awareness of the importance of global action on tobacco control; to share best practices in tobacco control; to highlight the main obstacles to progress, especially related to capacity; and to identify appropriate development interventions for tobacco control.

Scientific Advisory Committee on Tobacco Product Regulation

14. At its fifth meeting the Scientific Advisory Committee on Tobacco Product Regulation (Brisbane, Australia, November 2002) discussed recommendations on the regulation of ingredients and emissions from tobacco products and on smokeless tobacco. It will issue a statement of principles on modified/re-engineered tobacco products during the Negotiating Body's sixth session, when the final recommendations will also be released. Additionally, the Committee recommended that its status be changed to a study group.

Launch of the Kobe report on economics and tobacco control

15. The report of the International Meeting on Economic, Social and Health Issues in Tobacco Control (Kobe, Japan, 3 and 4 December 2001), at which work on international tobacco control by FAO, ILO, the World Bank and WHO, was reviewed, will be released during the sixth session of the Negotiating Body. The report will cover such issues as employment implications of tobacco-control policies for the agricultural and manufacturing sectors, contraband cigarettes and the consequences of the privatization of state-owned tobacco industries for the production and consumption of tobacco products. It will include seven studies commissioned by WHO: on employment (five country-case studies), smuggling and privatization.

WHO collaborating centres for tobacco control

16. WHO, in close collaboration with the regional advisers of the Tobacco Free Initiative, is expanding its network of collaborating centres for tobacco control and prevention of noncommunicable diseases to provide support for research and training, *inter alia*. This expansion will pave the way for self-sustainable programmes at country level and increase the support necessary for the adoption and implementation of the framework convention. Since the fifth session of the Negotiating Body, the Institute for Global Tobacco Control (Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, United States of America), the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education (University of California San Francisco, United States of America), and the Tobacco Control Unit of the National Research Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran) have applied to become such centres. The Instituto Nacional de Câncer (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) and the Clinical Trial Service Unit and Epidemiological Studies Unit (Faculty of Medicine, University of Oxford, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) are under consideration for redesignation.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

17. PAHO's report *Profits over People*, published in English and Spanish, documents efforts by tobacco companies to market cigarettes and undermine public health policies in Latin America and the Caribbean. As part of its new Smoke Free Americas initiative PAHO expanded the latter's web site.¹ PAHO completed a survey of the state of tobacco control in all countries of the Region of the Americas; the data will be included in the electronic National Tobacco Information Online System. Several technical tools for the implementation of smoke-free environments have been designed, in English and Spanish versions, including a video, a handbook, and an electronic training module that will be available in early 2003. A Portuguese edition of PAHO's *Developing Legislation for Tobacco Control*, already available in English and Spanish, will be available at the sixth session of the Negotiating Body.

18. The Regional Committee for Europe at its 52nd session adopted the European Strategy for Tobacco Control, which builds on the lessons learned from assessment of the three consecutive European Action Plans (1987-2001), the guiding principles set out in the Warsaw Declaration for a Tobacco-free Europe (February 2002), and the evidence underpinning tobacco control policy at national, regional and international levels. The strategy defines directions for action through national policies, legislation and action plans, with recommendations for monitoring, evaluating and reporting on tobacco use and tobacco-control policies. It also specifies mechanisms, tools and a time frame for international cooperation. The strategy will be regularly reviewed and adapted as appropriate. Its adoption has prompted Member States to formulate national action plans: since October 2002 14 countries in the European Region, in close cooperation with the Regional Office, are so doing.

19. In the Eastern Mediterranean Region country profiles on tobacco control for 2002 are now included in the regional web site.²

20. The Western Pacific Regional consultation of country representatives and country liaison officers (18-22 November 2002) discussed the framework convention.

21. Pilot projects on community-based cessation were initiated in five Member States in the South-East Asia Region in December 2002. These interventions will be closely monitored and evaluated by the Regional Office and will be fully implemented during 2003. Reviews of existing and potential multisectoral mechanisms for comprehensive tobacco control have been completed in eight of the 10 Member States in the Region during the past three months, and reports are being finalized. A regional plan of action is being drafted, for comment by policy-makers and representatives of nongovernmental organizations later in 2003. A WHO document outlining current statistics related to tobacco in all the 10 Member States and a manual on prevention and cessation of tobacco use for clinic- and community-based interventions are in press. Studies on economics of tobacco have been completed in eight Member States.

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¹ www.smokefreeamericas.org; www.americalibredehumo.org

² <http://www.emro.who.int/TFI/CountryProfile.htm>