
Progress since the Second session of the Conference of the Parties

Note by the Convention Secretariat

1. WHO through its Tobacco Free Initiative has worked complementarily with the Convention Secretariat in providing support to Parties in meeting their obligations under the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Activities related to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body and working groups established by the Conference of the Parties included the following.
2. Training materials were produced for workshops on packaging and labelling and smoke free environments after having being pilot tested at an Eastern Mediterranean regional workshop (Alexandria, Egypt, 18–20 November 2007).
3. WHO and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (Baltimore, Maryland, United States of America) jointly organized an international workshop on tobacco economics and taxation (Beijing, November 2007), with support from the Chinese Government. A further workshop, planned for the first half of 2008 will build on the conclusions and recommendations.
4. In accordance with resolution WHA54.18, WHO convened a consultation of leading experts in Washington DC in October 2007 to discuss the development of policy recommendations on counteracting activities of the tobacco industry that have a negative impact on tobacco control efforts.
5. The Global Tobacco Control Report is being finalized for release in early 2008. The policy data it contains have been assessed and validated by Member States.
6. At its fourth meeting (Palo Alto, California, United States of America, 25–27 July 2007) the WHO Study Group on Tobacco Product Regulation discussed fire-safer cigarettes, potentially reduced exposure products and smokeless tobacco products in the context of harm reduction.

7. Participants in the WHO Tobacco Laboratory Network, at its third meeting (London, 26-28 November 2007) gave updates on, and discussed, inter alia, global biomarker initiatives, efforts to expand capacity in countries that could host referral laboratories, independent verification of industry testing, and development of methods to identify counterfeit cigarettes.

8. With the support of the Framework Convention Alliance for Tobacco Control, a regional conference on illicit tobacco trade was held in Montevideo on 5 December 2007. Delegates from Member States in the Region of the Americas represented various sectors: finance and revenue, customs and excise, law enforcement, and public health. Relevant government and civil society organizations also participated.

9. At its seventh session (New York, February 2008) the United Nations Ad Hoc Interagency Task Force on Tobacco Control is scheduled to discuss the status of a ban on smoking on United Nations premises, tobacco growing and alternative livelihoods to tobacco, illicit trade, technical support from Task Force members for the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention, and gender and tobacco, the principal themes for the Secretary-General's fifth report to the Economic and Social Council in July 2008.

= = =