



# WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

SECOND MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP  
ON THE WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION  
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

A/FCTC/WG2/DIV/2  
25 February 2000

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## Letter from Dr Kimmo Leppo, Chairman, working group on the WHO framework convention on tobacco control

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the bureau of officers elected at the first meeting of the working group on the framework convention on tobacco control held in Geneva from 25 to 29 October 1999, I should like to remind Member States, regional economic integration organizations and observers that the second meeting of the working group on the WHO framework convention on tobacco control will take place in Geneva from 27 to 29 March 2000. Full documentation for the meeting is being dispatched separately by the WHO secretariat. It can also be accessed on Internet through the WHO web site (<http://www.who.int>) under the button "Governance".

On Tuesday, 25 January 2000 at its 105th session, the members of the WHO Executive Board discussed the WHO framework convention on tobacco control. In my capacity as Chairman of the working group, I updated the Board members on the progress of the working group so far. The Board members commended this progress. They also stressed the need for multisectoral action at the national level to further the process and the implementation of the future treaty.

As stated in the report of the first meeting of the working group (paragraph 92), "(t)he second meeting should neither repeat the work of the first meeting nor encroach on the negotiation process. It should consider further elaboration of the proposed draft elements of the framework convention and possible protocols, and prepare a draft text, indicating where general agreement was reached and indicating possible options, for consideration by the Health Assembly and the subsequent intergovernmental negotiating body. Documentation for the working group's meeting, including provisional texts of proposed draft elements, would be prepared by the secretariat in close collaboration with the bureau of the working group".

For those participants who are not yet fully familiar with the public health, economic and legal aspects of the framework convention discussions, attention is drawn to two background documents which would be particularly helpful in introducing some of the main content issues dealt with thoroughly during the first meeting. One is the World Bank document: *Curbing the epidemic, governments and the economics of tobacco control*. The second is Paper 1 of the framework convention on tobacco control technical briefing series entitled *The framework convention/protocol approach* (document WHO/NCD/TFI/99.1). If your delegation does not already have copies of these documents, please contact Dr Derek Yach (e-mail: [yachd@who.int](mailto:yachd@who.int); fax: +4122 791 4832) so that copies may be sent to your delegation.

As the working group recommended, a document entitled *Provisional texts of proposed draft elements for a WHO framework convention on tobacco control* (document A/FCTC/WG2/3) has been prepared taking into account comments made during the first meeting of the working group. Concerning the document on the *Possible subjects of initial protocols: elaboration of technical components of three possible protocols* (document A/FCTC/WG2/4), the secretariat and bureau noted that many possible subjects for protocols were raised in the first meeting, and that the relationship between the contents of the framework convention on tobacco control and those of possible protocols was difficult to anticipate. To clarify the latter through examples, the secretariat and bureau have elaborated the technical components for three possible related protocols, namely advertising and sponsorship, the treatment of tobacco dependence, and the elimination of tobacco smuggling. The specific reasons why these three subjects were selected are explained in the introductory section of document A/FCTC/WG2/4.

The bureau expects the second meeting of the working group to end by midday, Wednesday, 29 March 2000. The workload will be heavy and I therefore stress that working group delegations need to review the documents and prepare well in advance. The bureau urges that interventions during the second working group should be focused on the draft texts circulated by the secretariat before the meeting.

There will be two principal outputs from the second meeting of the working group. The first is a catalogue of draft elements, in accordance with resolution WHA52.18 of the World Health Assembly, and which should contain a pre-negotiating text for use by the intergovernmental negotiating body. The second is a report on the work of the working group. These outputs will be delivered to the Fifty-third World Health Assembly which that takes place from 15 to 20 May 2000.

Please accept my kind regards.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Kimmo Leppo

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