

The Regional Committee,

Recalling and reaffirming resolutions WHA56.1 and WPR/RC52.R6;

Having considered the report on the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (the Convention);¹

Acknowledging that tobacco use is a major risk to health in the Western Pacific, and that it is maintained by nicotine addiction;

Noting, with concern, the large and increasing burden of disease and preventable death caused by tobacco in the Region;

Concerned about the continued increase in per capita consumption of tobacco, particularly among young people in the Region;

Recognizing the hazardous effects of tobacco on the health of smokers and nonsmokers alike;

Appreciating the complex and transnational nature of the tobacco epidemic, and the need for tobacco control to address health, economic, political and sociocultural issues;

Acknowledging that agreement to the Convention required a long process to negotiate a compromise to resolve the differences and nuances in the interests of all Member States and interested parties;

Acknowledging further that multisectoral and multinational involvement is crucial to effective tobacco control;

Recognizing the need to be alert to any efforts by the tobacco industry to undermine or subvert tobacco control efforts and the need to be informed of activities of the tobacco industry that have a negative impact on tobacco control efforts;

¹ Document WPR/RC54/10.

Further recognizing that the Convention provides a comprehensive set of interventions for controlling the tobacco epidemic, and that its success depends on coordinated and committed participation by Member States at global, regional and national levels;

1. ENCOURAGES Member States:

(1) to sign, ratify, accept, approve, formally confirm or accede to the Convention, at the earliest opportunity, if they have not already done so;

2. URGES Member States:

(1) to reflect the provisions of the Convention in national policies and legislation;

(2) to implement tax policies for tobacco products as a means of reducing tobacco consumption, without prejudice to the sovereign right of the Member States to determine their policies;

(3) to ensure sustainable financing and support for tobacco control programmes, in line with the provisions of the Convention;

(4) to be alert to and resist all attempts to undermine the Convention or to reduce the effectiveness of regional, national and local tobacco control programmes;

(5) to develop mechanisms for multilateral cooperation within the Region so that Member States are able to address tobacco control issues that have transnational dimensions;

3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

(1) to support Member States in the process of ratification and implementation of the Convention;

(2) to support Member States in their tobacco control efforts, particularly in the development of national intersectoral tobacco control strategies consistent with the Convention, and in the pursuit of partnerships with other Member States for regional action against the tobacco epidemic;

(3) to report to Member States at regular intervals on progress in implementing the provisions of the Convention in the Western Pacific Region.