



WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

**Conference of the Parties to the
WHO Framework Convention
on Tobacco Control**

Sixth session
Moscow, Russian Federation, 13–18 October 2014

FCTC/COP/6/22
1 September 2014

Provisional agenda item 6.2

Interim performance report for the 2014–2015 workplan and budget

Report of the Convention Secretariat

1. An interim report on implementation of the 2014–2015 workplan and budget was requested by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its fifth session (Seoul, Republic of Korea, 12–17 November 2012).¹ The present report has been prepared in accordance with that decision, and covers the first six months of implementation of the workplan and budget, to 30 June 2014.
2. The report follows the structure of the workplan and budget for the financial period 2014–2015 approved by the COP in decision FCTC/COP5(19). Progress on tasks is rated according to three categories: “achieved”, “on course”, and “requiring additional action”, following the model of previous interim performance reports submitted to the COP.

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Preparing and convening the sixth session of the COP

3. **On course:** In accordance with the decision taken by the COP at its fifth session, the Convention Secretariat concluded the host agreement with the Russian Federation in October 2013.² The date and venue for the session were reviewed jointly by the Convention Secretariat and the host government, and subsequently approved by the Bureau of the COP. Follow-up meetings and teleconferences were held with representatives of the host country; a first preparatory mission to

¹ See decision FCTC/COP5(19).

² See decision FCTC/COP5(24).

Moscow was undertaken by the Secretariat in December 2013 and a second mission was scheduled for July 2014.

4. Notes verbales were sent to Parties and observers in early June 2014 inviting them to nominate their representatives, along with the provisional agenda that had been prepared in consultation with the Bureau. Nominations for Parties' delegations are being processed by the Secretariat, including travel arrangements for delegates entitled to travel support. Other preparations, including the production of official documentation, are in progress as planned.

Support to the work of the Bureau of the COP

5. **On course:** Support to the work of the Bureau elected by the COP at its fifth session was provided as planned. The Bureau met in April 2014, following two earlier meetings held in 2013. In accordance with the decisions of the COP, in particular the decision on the role of the Bureau,¹ the Bureau reviewed and provided guidance to the Secretariat on a number of issues, such as implementation of the workplan and budget adopted by the COP, the work of the intersessional groups established by the COP, applications for the status of observer to the COP and the review of accreditation of nongovernmental organizations, attendance of the public at sessions of the COP and meetings of subsidiary bodies, and preparation of the provisional agenda for the sixth session of the COP. As requested by the COP, the Secretariat made arrangements to place the documents and minutes of the Bureau on a protected website for Parties' information. The Secretariat also provided support to the Bureau, in consultation with the WHO Department of Human Resources, in its work on the appointment of the Head of the Convention Secretariat. Support to the work of the Bureau – immediately before and during the sixth session of the COP, as well as the work expected in 2015 – will continue as planned.

PROTOCOL, GUIDELINES AND OTHER POSSIBLE INSTRUMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

Work required for preparing the entry into force of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products

6. **On course:** The Secretariat continues to provide technical assistance to Parties, both face-to-face and online. The regional meetings for the European Region (Budapest, Hungary, 18–21 March 2014) and the Western Pacific Region (Nadi, Fiji, 28–30 April 2014) were utilized to raise awareness of the Protocol among the WHO FCTC focal points. In a multisectoral stakeholder meeting, requested by the Government of Uganda (Kampala, Uganda, 23–25 April 2014), the Convention Secretariat discussed the Protocol with representatives of health, customs, justice, law enforcement and other sectors, as well as civil society organizations and WHO. Customs officials from the other Member States of the East African Community² also participated.

7. With regard to Protocol-specific intercountry workshops, the European Union has kindly agreed to provide funding for one subregional workshop for Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus three other Parties,³ which is scheduled to be held in December 2014. Participants will represent three government sectors – public health, customs and another sector relevant to the

¹ Decision FCTC/COP5(20).

² Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and United Republic of Tanzania.

³ Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Protocol as deemed appropriate (e.g. law enforcement, justice or foreign affairs). Discussions to obtain funding for additional workshops, including with the Government of Panama are ongoing.

8. The Convention Secretariat has strengthened its cooperation with both the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Customs Organization (WCO). The Head of the Secretariat held meetings with the Executive Director of UNODC and with the Secretary-General of WCO, followed by meetings with senior and technical staff of these organizations, to explore potential mechanisms of cooperation. The Convention Secretariat and WCO agreed on a framework for cooperation to support entry into force of the Protocol by signing a statement of intent on 20 March 2014. Initial discussions have also been held with the World Bank and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) about their potential roles in supporting Protocol-related activities.

9. The Secretariat promoted the Protocol at high-level global events hosted by partner organizations, namely the 33rd session of WCO's Enforcement Committee and the 23rd session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice convened by UNODC. In addition, the Secretariat provided information on the Protocol to participants of regional preparatory meetings for the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Representatives of UNODC and WCO have, in turn, participated in several Protocol-related meetings organized by the Convention Secretariat.

10. An initial version of a study of the basic requirements of the tracking and tracing regime and the global information-sharing focal point to be established within five years of entry into force of the Protocol has been prepared. It aims at facilitating the future design and operationalization of the global tracking and tracing regime. The study is intended to support the deliberations of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. In addition, a self-assessment checklist for Parties to assess their legal, regulatory and policy frameworks in view of the requirements of the Protocol, and in order to scope Parties' technical assistance and capacity building needs, has been prepared by the Convention Secretariat. The checklist is available in the six official languages of the COP.

11. **Requiring additional action:** Entry into force of the Protocol will require ratification or accession by 40 Parties to the WHO FCTC (Article 45 of the Protocol). In accordance with Article 33.1 of the Protocol, the first session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) will be convened in conjunction with the next regular session of the COP following entry into force of the Protocol. The first session of the MOP will therefore not be convened before the seventh session of the COP (to be held in 2016 or 2017, pending a decision by the COP). The COP is therefore invited to consider re-assigning the funds that were allocated to the first session of the MOP in the workplan and budget for 2014–2015 (US\$ 345 000) to Protocol-related activities in 2014–2015 with a special emphasis on: (1) commissioning studies that identify obstacles to entry into force of the Protocol and suggest approaches to address them; (2) raising awareness of the problem of illicit trade in tobacco products among non-health sectors of governments; and (3) supporting Parties' accession to the Protocol by holding subregional workshops that involve customs, law enforcement and other decision-makers to build in-country capacity in cooperation with other agencies.

12. Further information on the status of the Protocol can be found in document FCTC/COP/6/6.

Convening the three intergovernmental working groups and the expert group established by the COP with submission of reports to COP6

13. **Achieved:** The Secretariat provided the assistance required for the organization of the work of the intergovernmental working groups on Articles 9 and 10, Articles 17 and 18, and sustainable measures for implementation of the WHO FCTC, established by the COP. Meetings of the working groups were convened in Geneva, on 28–30 January 2014,¹ 18–20 February 2014, and 29–31 October 2013 and 2–4 April 2014 respectively, following preparatory work by the respective Key Facilitators of each working group. In addition, the Secretariat also supported a meeting of the open-ended working group on Article 6 convened in Geneva on 3–6 June 2013² thanks to the generous financial contribution by Australia. Draft guidelines prepared by the working group were made available for Parties' comments in September 2013 and were subsequently finalized, taking account of the comments received from Parties.

14. The Secretariat also provided the technical and administrative assistance required for the organization of the work of the expert group on Article 19 (*Liability*) established by the COP.³ Under the direction of the Bureau of the COP the Secretariat convened the expert group. Two meetings were held in Geneva, on 23–25 October 2013 and 10–12 March 2014. The expert group prepared a report for the COP identifying and examining best practices, obstacles and available options for developing legislation and technical support for Parties.

15. Reports of all five intersessional bodies have been submitted to the COP for its consideration.⁴

REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS UNDER THE CONVENTION

Reports of Parties and global progress reports on implementation of the Convention

16. **On course:** The 2014 reporting cycle was conducted from 1 January to 30 April 2014, including a 15-day extension to Parties for submission of reports. The Secretariat continued to follow up with the Parties on the timely submission of reports, through regular communication with national focal points and announcements on the WHO FCTC website. A total of 130 Parties (73%, slightly higher than in 2012) provided their implementation reports by 30 April 2014. In addition, 18 Parties completed the optional Internet-based questions on their use of the implementation guidelines. The Secretariat has continued to receive reports since the deadline of 30 April. The global progress report on implementation of the Convention prepared by the Secretariat is expected to be ready in English by the time of the sixth session of the COP. In addition, as per the established practice, a paper containing the main findings of the implementation reports received in the 2014 reporting cycle has been submitted to the COP.⁵

¹ In line with the 2014–2015 workplan and budget, the meeting of the working group on Articles 9 and 10 was attended by Key Facilitators and representatives of up to two Parties per region, following a nomination process coordinated by the Secretariat in cooperation with the Key Facilitators.

² In line with decision FCTC/COP5(16) on the interim performance report for the 2012–2013 workplan and budget.

³ See decision FCTC/COP5(9).

⁴ Documents FCTC/COP/6/7, FCTC/COP/6/8, FCTC/COP/6/12 and FCTC/COP/6/13, and FCTC/COP/6/14.

⁵ Document FCTC/COP/6/5.

Support to Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations

17. **Achieved:** The WHO FCTC Indicator Compendium was finalized in late 2013, to facilitate access to treaty-specific indicators and use of the indicators by Parties. Training sessions for Parties in relation to reporting were provided through webinars organized by the Secretariat in January 2014. A special training session was convened during the European regional meeting (Hungary, 18–21 March 2014). Technical advice and assistance were provided to national focal points responsible for reports upon request. Approximately half of the Parties' focal points received such advice and assistance during the January–April 2014 report submission period.

18. **On course:** The work that commenced in December 2013 on the WHO FCTC Information Platform, which will be used to promote exchanges of information and practices between the Parties, is on course to be completed before the sixth session of the COP. The scope of the Information Platform includes a redesigned implementation database and a new communication platform to provide Parties with channels of communication and information exchange, including through knowledge hubs. It will also facilitate the sharing of laws and regulations among Parties.

Expert committee nominated by Parties to facilitate the review of Parties' implementation reports by the COP

19. **On course:** It is anticipated that a meeting of an expert committee to facilitate the review of Parties' implementation reports by the COP will be conducted in 2015, pending further guidance from the COP. Possible arrangements for the composition, mandate and time frame for work of the committee are presented for the consideration of the COP in document FCTC/COP/6/17.

ASSISTANCE TO PARTIES IN IMPLEMENTING SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION, WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON DEVELOPING COUNTRY PARTIES AND PARTIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

Advice and support on compilation and communication of information on treaty matters, and promotion of transfers of expertise and technology

20. **On course:** The Secretariat has continued its implementation assistance work, based on the key mechanisms endorsed by the COP – intercountry workshops, needs assessments and related assistance, and promotion of exchanges of expertise and best practices. In 2014, two regional meetings were organized (European Region: 18–21 March 2014, Budapest, Hungary; Western Pacific region: 28–30 April 2014, Nadi, Fiji), in collaboration with the respective WHO regional and country offices and the host governments. Two further regional meetings (for the Eastern Mediterranean Region and the Region of the Americas) are expected to take place in late September 2014, organized by the respective WHO regional offices in coordination with the Convention Secretariat.¹ At the end of the meetings, Parties agree on outcome documents to highlight the main findings and recommendations arising from the discussions. The documents can be found at <http://www.who.int/fctc/implementation/workshops/>.

21. Regional studies and case studies of national best practices identified in the regions have been prepared in connection with the regional meetings. A further series of technical publications to serve

¹ Three meetings to promote implementation of the WHO FCTC were conducted in 2012–2013: African Region: 9–12 October 2012, Dakar, Senegal; South-East Asia Region: 23–26 July 2013, New Delhi, India; and the Region of the Americas: 3–6 September 2013, Bogota, Colombia.

as a resource for Parties have also been facilitated by the Secretariat.¹ Some of these publications of global scope are being developed in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNCTAD.

22. Regarding transfers of expertise and technology between the Parties, in 2014 the Secretariat has facilitated the granting of licences to use pictorial health warnings, including for the testing of new health warnings, to Samoa, New Zealand, six countries that are Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates), and Yemen. The Secretariat works closely with WHO in promoting the use of the WHO Pictorial Health Warning Database hosted by the WHO website. The Secretariat also provides advice on treaty-specific matters, and facilitates exchanges of information between Parties upon request.

23. Work also continued on establishing knowledge hubs, which are expected to provide a platform for international exchanges of information, knowledge, skills and expertise. The knowledge hubs will bring together stakeholders including Parties, civil society, development partners and academic institutions. Arrangements for establishing two knowledge hubs were finalized at the end of 2013, in coordination with and supported by the respective governments – the McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer, Australia (functioning under the umbrella of the Union for International Cancer Control) in light of its expertise in cancer prevention and the law; and the National Institute of Health and Welfare, Finland, in light of its expertise in surveillance, epidemiology and incorporation of the protection of health into all policies. A memorandum of understanding on the establishment of a third knowledge hub was signed in May 2014 by the Secretariat and the Government of Uruguay, given Uruguay's commitment to South–South cooperation, well-established tobacco-cessation measures and strong policies on implementation of Articles 8 and 11.

Needs assessments and promotion of access to available resources

24. **On course:** Requests to support needs assessments have been received from a further eight Parties during the period covered by this report.² Preparations to conduct these needs assessments are ongoing with respective governments in coordination with WHO and other development partners. To date, 28 full needs assessments³ have been conducted since 2009. In three additional countries (Afghanistan, Botswana and Senegal) specific implementation assistance was provided as per the requests of the Parties.

25. **Achieved:** The growing experience of needs assessments conducted by the Convention Secretariat in collaboration with different partners has allowed refinement of the methodology and improved cost-effectiveness. It has also provided a snapshot of the major challenges Parties are facing in implementation of the WHO FCTC and the areas in which technical and financial support are needed.

26. A particular focus in the first half of the 2014 was on planning, providing and facilitating post-needs assessment assistance to Parties. In the first half of 2014, post-needs assessment support has been provided to 12 Parties.¹ At the time of preparation of this report (July 2014), provision of

¹ See www.who.int/fctc/publications/techseries/en/

² Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Congo, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Niue, Jamaica, Togo and Tonga.

³ Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Colombia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nepal, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, and Sri Lanka.

financial support to Peru, Samoa and Sri Lanka was under discussion. A regional study on the status of Article 5.2(a) in Africa is also being prepared. Annex 2 contains a summary of initiatives in Parties that benefited from post-needs assessment assistance in 2014.

COORDINATION WITH INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER BODIES

Establishing and expanding cooperation and coordination with relevant international and regional intergovernmental organizations and other bodies

27. **On course:** The second meeting of the recently established United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Disease (NCDs) – the successor to the former United Nations Interagency Task Force on Tobacco Control – took place on 29–30 January 2014. In line with the guidance provided by the relevant United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution, one full day of the meeting was dedicated to tobacco control. The Secretariat was actively involved, and facilitated the session on the role of the Task Force in strengthening the national coordination mechanisms envisaged in Article 5 of the Convention. The Secretariat also provided input to the Secretary-General’s report, including in relation to the workplan of activities under the Task Force, which will be submitted to the 2014 substantive session of ECOSOC. Cooperation frameworks were also finalized with the World Bank, UNDP and WCO. A similar agreement with UNCTAD is expected to be finalized before COP6. The Secretariat’s continuing collaboration with WHO is described below.

Promotion of South–South cooperation in the exchange of scientific, technical and legal expertise as relevant to the implementation of the Convention

28. **On course:** At its fifth session, the COP approved five demonstration projects to promote South–South and triangular cooperation in the following areas: (1) national coordination mechanisms in compliance with the WHO FCTC; (2) tobacco product regulations and disclosure; (3) smokeless tobacco; (4) prevention of shisha tobacco use; and (5) promotion of implementation of Articles 11 and 13 in relation to packaging and labelling. One project (pictorial health warnings in the African Region) is being implemented and is expected to be completed before the sixth session of the COP. Three projects (smokeless tobacco, prevention of shisha tobacco use, and national coordination mechanisms) are at different stages of preparation but were on course. A stakeholder meeting to review achievements and experiences in this area is expected to be held following the sixth session of the COP. Further details of international cooperation, including South–South and triangular cooperation, are contained in document FCTC/COP/6/18.

Review of accreditation of nongovernmental organizations

29. **Achieved:** The Secretariat undertook a review of accreditation of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) as requested and in accordance with the criteria adopted by the COP, based on an analysis of the reports submitted by NGOs. As part of the review, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, has developed, and will propose for adoption by the COP, a standard web-based questionnaire to facilitate future reporting by NGOs to the COP. The outcome of the review, including the Secretariat’s proposals, is presented to the COP in document FCTC/COP/6/26.

¹ Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cook Islands, Fiji, Gabon, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nepal, Palau and Solomon Islands.

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT, AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Tasks related to general administration and management

30. **On course:** As in previous bienniums, the Secretariat's workplan and administrative arrangements remain fully integrated, and customized when necessary, within WHO's global management system. The Secretariat provided regular updates to the Bureau on the status of implementation of workplans and budgets adopted by the COP. Relevant information is contained in document FCTC/COP/6/21 and the present document. At the time of writing of this report, the proposed workplan and budget for the financial period 2016–2017 was being developed for submission to the COP as planned (document FCTC/COP/6/24).

31. The workplan envisages progress in resource mobilization. Parties were informed of the scale of assessment for voluntary assessed contributions (VAC) for 2014–2015 in April 2013. As at 30 June 2014, the collection of VAC for this biennium reached 21%, compared with 35% at the corresponding date of the preceding biennium. The Secretariat sent reminders in March 2014 and will further follow up with Parties regarding their contributions, as well as arrears for previous bienniums, as mandated by COP5.¹

32. During the first six months of the current biennium, extrabudgetary resources supported the second meeting of the working group on sustainable measures to strengthen implementation of the Convention, held on 2–4 April 2014, and the workshop for permanent missions on relevant trade and investment issues. Resource mobilization in this period was mostly linked to the collection of VAC and the raising of resources to promote multisectoral coordination in relation to the Protocol. The Secretariat received extrabudgetary support from Belgium, which has sponsored a junior professional officer. In addition, the Secretariat is working with potential donors to support developing country Parties that are part of their bilateral development assistance frameworks, with a view to promoting alignment of resources and assistance to Parties based on principles of aid effectiveness.

Tasks related to advocacy, communication and participation in professional meetings

33. **On course:** The Secretariat communicates with national focal points and permanent missions as needed, including through regular bilateral meetings. A briefing for permanent missions in preparation for the COP is scheduled for September 2014. Treaty materials and publications are disseminated to Parties on request. As described above, the Secretariat also facilitates and publishes relevant regional study papers, national best practices papers and technical publications. Raising awareness at a high political level continues to be an important element of promoting the work of the Convention and the Protocol. In this regard, and in addition to participation in regional meetings, the Secretariat addressed the relevant global and regional meetings of UNODC and WCO as well as other professional organizations. Participation in a seminar on trade and tobacco control organized by the Directorate-General for Health and Consumers of the European Commission (Brussels, 6–7 March 2014) enabled sharing of experiences in this area.

34. In addition to Parties, the public and stakeholders are kept informed through the Secretariat's Newsletter (one edition so far in 2014, published in February), and through the WHO FCTC website which is regularly updated with information relating to the Convention. Work has also intensified on completion of the Information Platform, which will strengthen the Secretariat's communication and

¹ See decision FCTC/COP5(17).

dissemination of information through an improved database of Parties' reports and a communication platform.

Coordination with relevant departments and offices of WHO

35. **On course:** The Secretariat continues to collaborate with relevant departments at WHO Headquarters and in regional and country offices. In view of the significance of tobacco use for NCDs, cooperation with WHO's Department for Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (PND) has assumed particular significance. During the period covered by this report, the Secretariat worked closely with PND, including within the context of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs. The Secretariat cooperated with PND in finalizing several reports requested by the COP at its fifth session and in reviewing the tobacco prevalence and taxation data in preparing the 2014 global progress report. The Secretariat and PND held senior staff meetings to coordinate activities, and maintain regular communication. PND and regional advisors were invited to attend the meetings of the intersessional working groups established by the COP at its fifth session and contributed to the outcomes of the meetings.

36. The Secretariat is also in regular contact with the WHO regional offices, and took opportunities provided by relevant meetings to discuss cooperation. In the context of implementation assistance, for example, the Secretariat continues to work with the regional offices to organize intercountry workshops. Efforts were made to ensure that the timing and venue of the workshop for the Western Pacific Region would enable consultations on a regional action plan to take place at the same time, with travel support to Parties eligible for such support being provided by the Secretariat. The Secretariat also works closely with the regional and country offices to provide treaty-specific technical support as well as post-needs assessment support to Parties. During this process the Secretariat works with different WHO programmes to synergize recommendations and support and to coordinate the overall response with a view to strengthening health systems. The Secretariat relies on the WHO country offices to arrange contracts with governments using the funds from the Secretariat, and to monitor implementation of projects in relation to post-needs assessment assistance.

Other work requested in decisions taken at the fifth session of the COP that were not explicitly reflected in the workplan

37. **Additional reports:** In addition to the tasks referred to in the workplan, the COP requested that several other reports be prepared and submitted to its sixth session, namely those on: options for conducting an impact assessment of the WHO FCTC; feasibility of changing from voluntary assessed contributions to assessed contributions; trade and investment issues relevant to implementation of the WHO FCTC; and harmonization of travel support to the Parties. All reports had been finalized or were in progress in July 2014, the time of writing of this report.

38. **Awareness and information sharing on trade and investment issues related to implementation of the Convention:** As requested in the relevant COP decisions, in order to further encourage communication and intercountry exchanges in this area of growing importance, the Secretariat organized a half-day workshop for countries' Geneva-based health and trade representatives on 31 March 2014. The Secretariat also requested the McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer, in its capacity as a knowledge hub, to assist with the analysis and dissemination of information on trade- and investment-related and other legal challenges to implementation of the WHO FCTC. Other activities undertaken to facilitate information sharing are described in the relevant document to be submitted to the COP at its sixth session (FCTC/COP/6/20).

39. **Implementation of efficiency measures to streamline the work of the Secretariat and that of the COP:** In line with decision FCTC/COP5(19), the Secretariat reviewed the official addresses in its database and invited Parties to verify their contacts in order to facilitate communication on both

statutory/institutional and technical matters under the WHO FCTC. A database of official contacts has now been established and will be regularly updated. The Secretariat also made efforts to reduce printing and distribution of paper copies of documents, and arrangements have been made for the preparation of the report of the sixth session of the COP in a new format, also in line with decision FCTC/COP5(19).

SUMMARY OF THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORKPLAN

40. Overall, of the 16 tasks identified in the workplan, three (related to the intergovernmental and expert groups established by the COP and the review of accreditation of nongovernmental organizations) were achieved during the first six months of implementation, and 13 tasks (related to preparing and convening the sixth session of the COP, implementation of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, reporting arrangements, assistance to Parties, coordination with international organizations, and administration and management) are on course. The first Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol is pending the Protocol's entry into force. In addition, four other reports requested by the COP for its sixth session that were not included in the workplan had been completed or were on course at the time of writing of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION

41. The budget approved by the COP at its fifth session was US\$ 17 290 000, out of which the VAC of Parties accounted for US\$ 9 100 000, and US\$ 8 190 000 was for activities subject to availability of extrabudgetary funds. An amount of US\$ 793 270 was identified as an additional cost to the Secretariat for holding COP6 in Moscow, Russian Federation.

42. As at 30 June 2014, total revenue amounted to US\$ 15 911 060. This includes a carryover of US\$ 4 225 623, VAC for the 2014–2015 biennium of US\$ 9 100 000 and extrabudgetary funds of US\$ 2 855 437, less the loan for administrative services from WHO to the WHO FCTC in 2010–2011 of US\$ 270 000. After taking into account receivables of unpaid VAC of Parties for the financial periods 2006–2007, 2008–2009 and 2010–2011 in the amount of US\$ 387 897, the contingency reserve of 3% for non-payment of VAC for 2012–2013 (3% of 9 150 102) of US\$ 274 503, the contingency reserve of 5% of VAC for the financial period 2014–2015 in the amount of US\$ 455 000, and receivables from the European Union (EU) of US\$ 4 796 168, total available funds come to US\$ 10 669 327, as shown in Table 1 of Annex 1.

43. The future commitment by the EU of US\$ 671 825, which according to the EU donor agreement signed in December 2011 will be released on final and successful implementation of the three-year grant, is included in the total amount of funds receivable from the EU award in the future, and does not affect total available funds.

44. The actual payment by Parties of VAC for 2014–2015 during the first six months of 2014 amounted to US\$ 1 955 851. This represents 21% of the total VAC for the biennium, as compared with 35% in the same period of the previous biennium. Fifty-two Parties out of 178 for which the Convention was in force by 30 June 2014 paid their respective contributions (either in full for the biennium, or partially), while 124 Parties were still to make payments and two Parties for which the Convention entered into force in 2014 had not been billed yet. The status of payment of Parties' VAC, regularly updated, can be found on the WHO FCTC website, and an update as at 30 September 2014 will also be available at COP6.

45. Extrabudgetary contributions amounted to US\$ 2 855 437. This represented 18% of the total revenue. The major part of this revenue, US\$ 2 062 167, is the 2014–2015 instalment of the three-year grant being provided by the EU to support implementation of the Convention, in particular in developing countries, according to the donor agreement signed in December 2011 (out of the total of

€5.2 million, which is equivalent to US\$ 6 718 346). Funds also included an instalment of the contribution of the Russian Federation to cover additional costs for hosting COP6 (US\$ 793 270).

46. Expenditure came to a total of US\$ 2 770 792, including staff costs of US\$ 1 527 517, activity costs of US\$ 948 465 and programme support costs, payable to WHO, of US\$ 294 810.

47. Full details of financial implementation for the biennium will be available in the 2014–2015 performance report to be submitted to the next session of the COP. However, the Secretariat would like to offer some observations at this juncture, at the six-month point of implementation, for the consideration and action of the COP, as appropriate.

Arrears in voluntary assessed contributions

48. As indicated above, an amount of US\$ 387 897, corresponding to unpaid VAC for the last three bienniums, the contingency for non-payment of VAC for 2012–2013 in the amount of US\$ 274 503 and the contingency reserve for VAC payments in the current biennium, in the amount of US\$ 455 000, will not be made available to the Secretariat by WHO financial services until the respective payments for each biennium are made by Parties. The Secretariat therefore requests that the attention of the Parties be given to this important matter and would like to request the Parties in arrears to pay their contributions as soon as possible to ensure full implementation of the workplan, as requested by the COP at its fourth session.¹

ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

49. The COP is invited to note this report.

¹ See decision FCTC/COP4(22), *Arrears in the payment of financial contributions*. More details of the status of and arrears in the payment of VAC are presented in the Secretariat's report on this matter to COP6 (document FCTC/COP/6/23).

ANNEX 1

FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION 2014–2015 (AS AT 30 JUNE 2014)**Table 1. Distribution of available funds (US\$)**

Opening balance (1 January 2014)	4 225 623
Revenue	
Voluntary assessed contributions 2014–2015	9 100 000
Additional contributions received from Russian Federation ¹	793 270
Release of EU award revenue 2014 ²	2 062 167
Less: Loan for administrative services from WHO to WHO FCTC in 2010–2011	(270 000)
Total revenue	15 911 060
Add: Revenue to be recognized in future periods for EU award	671 835
Less:	
Receivable from EU award ³	(4 796 168)
VAC receivable from prior bienniums (2006–2011)	(387 897)
Contingency for non-payment of VAC for 2012–2013 (3% of 9 150 102)	(274 503)
Contingency reserve for 2014–2015 VAC at 5%	(455 000)
Total available funds	10 669 327

Table 2. Overall implementation (US\$)

Total available funds	10 669 327
Expenditure	2 770 792
Balance	7 898 535

Table 3. Voluntary assessed contributions (VAC) for the financial period 2014–2015 (US\$)⁴

Number of Parties	Parties that have made payment	Parties that have not made payment	VAC 2014–2015		
			Total	Paid	Outstanding
178	52	126	9 100 000	1 955 851	7 144 149

¹ Extrabudgetary contributions from the Russian Federation (US\$ 793 270) to the Secretariat for hosting COP6 in Moscow, Russian Federation.

² The third portion for European Union (US\$ 2 062 167).

³ This includes revenue to be recorded in future periods of the EU award (US\$ 671 835).

⁴ The table shows the status of payment of VAC as at 30 June 2014 and in line with the scale of VAC approved by COP5 (in decision FCTC/COP5(19)), including for countries that became Parties after COP5. Of the 52 Parties that paid their VAC, 16 Parties made partial payments.

Table 4. Distribution of expenditure**4.1 Overall distribution of expenditure (US\$)**

Staff costs ¹	1 527 517
VAC	1 374 428
<i>Extrabudgetary</i>	153 089
Activity costs	948 465
Programme support costs	294 810
Total	2 770 792

4.2 Distribution of activity costs by type of activity (US\$)

Travel	392 641
Supplementary staff cost	176 613
General operating cost	67 236
Contractual services	245 350
Telecommunications	(662)
Direct implementation	799
Courtesy expenses	7 499
Direct finance cooperation	58 989
Total	948 465

¹ For six months, January–June 2014.

4.3 Distribution of activity costs by 2014–2015 workplan budget lines (US\$)

Type of activity	FTE ¹ count	Salary ² (\$)	Activity and administration (\$)	Total
Conference of the Parties	3	315 466	112 082	399 297
· Preparing COP6			4 071	
· Preparing documents for COP6			83 469	
· Providing support to the Bureau			24 542	
Protocols, guidelines and other possible instruments	3	286 256	312 153	579 575
· Work for preparing entering into force Protocol			30 340	
· Convening three intergovernmental WGs and one expert group			281 813	
Reporting arrangements under the Convention	1	117 763	135 178	243 524
· Conducting the 2014 reporting cycle			52 987	
· Supporting Parties in reporting for the 2014 reporting cycle			82 191	
· Convening an expert group meeting to refine reporting arrangements			-	
Assistance to Parties in implementation matters	3	307 813	335 387	624 366
· Providing advice and assisting Parties			216 008	
· Conducting needs assessments and follow-up seed grants			119 379	
Coordination with international and regional intergovernmental organizations and bodies	2	146 099	46 631	173 896
· Coordinating with WHO departments and offices			-	
· Participating in the establishment and follow-up of the UN Interagency Taskforce on NCDs			31 275	
· Promoting South–South cooperation			-	
· Review of accreditation of NGOs and IGOs			-	

Type of activity	FTE ¹ count	Salary ² (\$)	Activity and administration (\$)	Total
· Trade and investment aspects of WHO FCTC implementation, international exchange and cooperation			15 356	
Administration and management	3	354 120	7 034	266 983
· General administration and management, including human resources and finances			4 831	
· Advocacy, communication, including website and publications, and participation in professional meetings			2 203	
· Identifying efficiency measures for the Secretariat's work			-	
Total FTE count	15			
Total		1 527 517	948 465³	2 475 982
Programme support costs		198 577	96 233	294 810

¹ FTE = full-time equivalent.

² Salary based on the FTE count.

³ Out of the total expenditure on activities of US\$ 948 465, US\$ 451 107 is attributed to EU funds and subjected to programme support costs of 7% (US\$ 31 577) and US\$ 497 358 is subjected to 13% programme support costs (US\$ 64 656).

ANNEX 2

**EXAMPLES OF INITIATIVES IN PARTIES THAT
BENEFITED FROM POST-NEEDS ASSESSMENT ASSISTANCE IN 2014**

Burundi	Burkina Faso	Cook Islands	Federated States of Micronesia	Fiji	Gabon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National stakeholder meeting to discuss the needs assessment report and action plans • Plan to hold meeting with two chambers of the Parliament • Plan to develop comprehensive national tobacco control legislation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National stakeholder meeting held • Developed national tobacco control action plan for 2015–2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted National Tobacco Control Action Plan • Significantly increased tobacco taxes • Introduced free cessation services in the capital and is planning to extend to outer islands • Included WHO FCTC implementation in UNDAF • National stakeholder meeting • Amending tobacco control act and regulations • Supported to train a lawyer from the Ministry of Health • National tobacco control focal point was supported to attend training on implementation of the WHO FCTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established national coordination mechanism • Developed and adopted national action plan • Increased tobacco tax • Increased funding for tobacco control • Stakeholder meeting held at Federal level involving all States • Communication campaigns run • Enforcement training for law enforcement officers held in all four States • Tobacco taxation training conducted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products • Significantly increased tobacco taxes • Introduced tobacco licence fee • Expanded smoke-free areas • Introduced large pictorial health warnings • Included WHO FCTC implementation in UNDAF • National stakeholder meeting held • Advocacy campaigns run • Plan to amend decree, in particular in relation to Articles 8, 9&10, 13 and 16.3 • National tobacco control focal point supported to attend training on implementation of the WHO FCTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established tobacco control programme with full time staff and allocated office space • National stakeholder meeting held • Developed national tobacco control legislation

Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Solomon Islands	Mauritius	Nepal	Palau	Marshall Islands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products • National stakeholder meeting held • Privatized tobacco company and will no longer allow it to be involved in public health policy-making process • Code of conduct can be further utilized to implement Article 5.3 and its guidelines • Plan to develop national tobacco control action plan • National tobacco control focal point supported to attend training on implementation of the WHO FCTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted regulations to implement the Tobacco Control Act 2010 • Plan to introduce pictorial health warnings in January 2015 • Developed Strategic Health Communication Plan for Tobacco Control in 2013 • Developed draft legislation and code of conduct on implementation of Article 5.3 and its guidelines • Conducted communication campaigns • Included WHO FCTC implementation in UNDAF • National stakeholder meeting held • National tobacco control focal point supported to attend training on implementation of the WHO FCTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National stakeholder meeting held • Conducted youth tobacco survey • Plan to develop a media strategy targeting youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Stakeholder meeting held • Developed National tobacco control Strategic Plan (2013–2016) • Supreme Court ruled in favour of the Ministry of Public Health and Population to implement large size pictorial health warnings • Conduct tobacco control law enforcement training in two Regions of the country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amended legislation • Increased tobacco taxes • Expanded smoke-free areas • Banned point-of-sale advertising • Restricted duty-free sales • Included WHO FCTC implementation in UNDAF • National stakeholder meeting held 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan to review and amend the tobacco control act and develop regulations • National stakeholder meeting held • Developing national action plan • Conducted tobacco taxation training

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