

Outcome of the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

Report by the Secretariat

1. The second session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control was held from 30 June to 6 July 2007, in Bangkok, under the presidency of Ambassador Juan Martabit (Chile). Twenty-three international intergovernmental organizations and 49 nongovernmental organizations were accredited as observers. As of 29 February 2008, there were 152 Parties to the Convention.
2. The Conference of the Parties adopted a number of decisions,¹ on matters ranging from the development of various guidelines for the implementation of the Convention to budgetary and organizational issues and the decision on its date and venue of the third session.
3. The Conference decided to establish an intergovernmental negotiating body open to all Parties to draft and negotiate a protocol on illicit trade in tobacco products, which would build upon and complement the provisions of Article 15 of the Convention.² That Body commenced its work by convening its first session, held from 11 to 16 February 2008, in Geneva.
4. The Conference of the Parties adopted the first guidelines for implementation of the Convention, namely those on Article 8 (Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke),³ and also requested the working group on the elaboration of guidelines for the implementation of Articles 9 and 10 (Regulation of the contents of tobacco products, and Regulation of tobacco product disclosures) to continue its work and to submit a progress report to the third session of the Conference of the Parties.⁴
5. The Conference of the Parties also established four new working groups to elaborate guidelines on the implementation of various articles of the Framework Convention, namely on Articles 5.3 on protection of public health policies with respect to tobacco control from commercial and other

¹ All decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its second session are contained in document A/FCTC/COP/2/DIV/9.

² Decision FCTC/COP2(12).

³ Decision FCTC/COP2(7).

⁴ Decision FCTC/COP2(14).

vested interests of the tobacco industry, Article 11 (Packaging and labelling of tobacco products), Article 12 (Education, communication, training and public awareness)¹ and Article 13 (Tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship).² The working groups are to present draft guidelines or a progress report for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its third session.

6. The Conference of the Parties further decided to mandate the study group on economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing to continue its work and submit a report to the Conference at its third session.³ The Conference also requested the Convention Secretariat to prepare a report on Article 14 of the Framework Convention (Demand reduction measures concerning tobacco dependence and cessation)⁴ and, with regard to the reporting instrument, to revise the format of the questionnaire for Group 1 questions and to draft the Group 2 questions, for consideration by the Conference at its third session.⁵

7. The Conference of the Parties adopted the budget and workplan for the period 2008–2009⁶ as well as a decision on financial resources and mechanisms of assistance,⁷ and decided that the third session of the Conference of the Parties will be held in South Africa in the last quarter of 2008, the dates and venue to be confirmed by the Bureau.⁸ The Conference was also informed that, in accordance with relevant decisions,⁹ the Convention Secretariat had been established within WHO. Dr Haik Nikogosian was appointed as the Head of the Convention Secretariat. Lastly, the Conference elected officers to constitute the Bureau for its third session, under the presidency of Dr Hatai Chitanondh (Thailand).

ACTION BY THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

8. The Health Assembly is invited to note the report.

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¹ Also contained in decision FCTC/COP/2(14).

² Decision FCTC/COP2(8).

³ Decision FCTC/COP2(13).

⁴ Also contained in decision FCTC/COP2(14).

⁵ Decision FCTC/COP2(9).

⁶ Decision FCTC/COP2(11).

⁷ Decision FCTC/COP2(10).

⁸ Decision FCTC/COP2(15).

⁹ Decisions FCTC/COP1(10) and FCTC/COP1(12) and resolution WHA59.17.