



# WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

FIFTY-NINTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY  
Provisional agenda item 21

A59/40  
24 April 2006

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

1. The first session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control was held from 6 to 17 February 2006, in Geneva, under the presidency of Ambassador Juan Martabit (Chile). By the end, the Convention had entered into force for 113 Parties; as of 13 March 2006, there were 124 Parties to the Convention.
2. The Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules for the Conference of the Parties were adopted by consensus.<sup>1</sup> Timeframes and workplans for the elaboration of guidelines for the implementation of Articles 8 to 13 of the Framework Convention were determined, priority being given to Articles 8 (Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke) and 9 (Regulation of the contents of tobacco products).<sup>2</sup>
3. The Conference initiated development of protocols on cross-border advertising, promotion and sponsorship and on illicit trade in tobacco products, in accordance with Article 13.8 and Article 15, respectively.<sup>3</sup> Expert groups will be convened in order to draft templates for the two protocols.
4. The second session of the Conference of the Parties will take place within the first six months of 2007, the exact dates and location to be determined.<sup>4</sup> A draft reporting instrument was adopted for provisional use by Parties in order to fulfil their obligations to the second session of the Conference.<sup>5</sup>
5. The Conference of the Parties decided that a permanent secretariat, to be called the Convention Secretariat, will be established within WHO and located in Geneva. The Convention Secretariat will be responsible and accountable to the Conference of the Parties for technical and treaty activities, and to the Director-General of WHO for administrative and staff management matters, and for technical activities where appropriate. The Conference of the Parties recommended that the Health Assembly should continue to support and, where appropriate, to strengthen, the Tobacco Free Initiative in 2008-2009 in order to assist the Convention Secretariat in the implementation of the Convention.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Decisions FCTC/COP1(8) and FCTC/COP1(9), respectively. Decisions of the first session of the Conference of the Parties are contained in document A/FCTC/COP/1/DIV/8.

<sup>2</sup> Decision FCTC/COP1(15).

<sup>3</sup> Decision FCTC/COP1(16).

<sup>4</sup> Decision FCTC/COP1(18).

<sup>5</sup> Decision FCTC/COP1(14).

<sup>6</sup> Decision FCTC/COP1(12).

6. The Conference adopted by consensus the budget and workplan for the Convention Secretariat for the period 2006-2007.<sup>1</sup> The budget of US\$ 8 010 000 is financed entirely from a schedule of voluntary assessed contributions from Parties to the Convention. Specifically, contributions are determined according to an accepted rate of assessment; however, because the text of the Framework Convention does not contain an obligation for Contracting Parties to contribute, all contributions must be voluntary. Insofar as the budget adopted by the Conference is inclusive of all administrative fees, none of the funds necessary to support the Convention Secretariat will come from WHO's budget, making the resolution cost neutral.

## **ACTION BY THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

7. The Health Assembly is invited to consider the following draft resolution:

The Fifty-ninth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on the outcome of the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control;<sup>2</sup>

Recalling resolutions WHA49.17 and WHA52.18 calling for the development of the Framework Convention in accordance with Article 19 of the Constitution of WHO, and resolution WHA56.1 adopting the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control;

Recognizing the urgent need for all Contracting Parties to fulfil their obligations under the Framework Convention, and noting the essential role of a permanent secretariat of the Convention in this work;

Reaffirming the objective of the Framework Convention as described in Article 3 thereof;

1. WELCOMING the successful convening of the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, 6-17 February 2006 in Geneva;
2. NOTES the decision of the Conference of the Parties to establish a permanent secretariat of the convention;<sup>3</sup>
3. REQUESTS the Director-General to establish a permanent secretariat of the Convention within the World Health Organization and located in Geneva pursuant to decision FCTC/COP1(10);
4. CALLS UPON Member States, which have not yet done so, to consider ratifying, accepting, approving, formally confirming or acceding to the Convention at the earliest opportunity.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision FCTC/COP1(11).

<sup>2</sup> Document A59/40.

<sup>3</sup> Decision FCTC/COP1(10).