Application for the status of observer to the Conference of the Parties

Application of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

1. In addition to the applications for observer status to the Conference of the Parties (COP) received by the Convention Secretariat as described in document FCTC/COP/6/3, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK) has also submitted its application to the Convention Secretariat for the status of observer to the COP. The application was received by email of 11 July 2014 to which was attached a letter signed by the President of CTFK.

2. A brief summary of the background information and supporting documentation submitted by CTFK in support of its application is provided below.

3. CTFK is a public health advocacy organization with a specific focus on tobacco control policies (websites: www.tobaccofreekids.org and www.global.tobaccofreekids.org). It works with civil society organizations in more than 35 countries.

4. According to its application, CTFK’s programmatic goal is to eliminate tobacco-related death and disease in low- and middle-income countries, by advocating for, and supporting others to advocate for, the adoption and implementation of effective laws and policies.

5. CTFK is not a membership organization. It is organized as a non-profit charitable organization under the laws of the United States of America and indicates in its application that it accepts neither government nor tobacco industry funding. CTFK relies on contributions from individuals, philanthropic foundations, corporations and other non-profit organizations. CTFK is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of leaders in the non-profit, legal, health-care, education and business sectors.

6. CTFK reports in its application that it works with teams of consultants and grantees in several countries and that it has offices in Argentina, Mexico, Nigeria and Uganda. It has full-time consultants working in nine countries in different regions of the world.
7. The main activities as reported by CTFK in its application are summarized below:

- CTFK engages in direct advocacy and provides financial and technical support to civil society organizations and some governments throughout the world working to achieve the adoption and implementation of laws and policies that comply with or exceed the provisions of the WHO FCTC and its guidelines: specifically, Articles 5.3, 6, 8, 11, 13 and 19. This support includes: grants to civil society organizations; technical assistance on a variety of aspects of tobacco control including legislation drafting; advice on strategic litigation; participation in litigation to defend policies and laws that are challenged by the tobacco industry; guidance on advocacy strategies and tactics; communications support to grantees and partners; and technical support, including the development of fact sheets, tools, and guidance materials in all official United Nations languages and Portuguese. Internationally, the CTFK supports governments and non-governmental organizations in promoting and implementing tobacco-control policies.

- CTFK has developed and continues to expand a database that currently consists of examples of legislation from 192 countries, in-depth analysis of laws from 61 countries and over 700 law court challenges (see http://www.tobaccocontrollaws.org/).

- CTFK has produced publications relating to implementation of specific articles of the WHO FCTC (including Articles 6 and 13).

8. With regard to Article 5.3, CTFK declares in its application that all staff, consultants, grantees and entities contracted to provide services to CTFK must sign a declaration affirming that they do not work for or on the behalf of the tobacco industry – broadly defined to include any tobacco industry businesses as well as any entities or individuals that represent a tobacco industry business or promote tobacco industry goals – or have any substantial business dealings in the tobacco industry. CTFK indicates that breaches of this conflict of interest policy may result in termination of employment or immediate termination of grant agreements and contracts.

9. The Bureau reviewed the application of CTFK and the Secretariat’s report and would like to recommend to the COP that observer status be granted to CTFK as it could valuably contribute to promoting implementation of the WHO FCTC in all countries in which it is active and the organization’s aims and activities appear to be in conformity with the spirit, purpose and principles of the Convention, in accordance with Rule 31.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the COP.

**Action by the Conference of the Parties**

10. The COP is invited to consider the application submitted by CTFK for the status of observer to the COP in accordance with Rule 31.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the COP, taking into account the recommendation of the Bureau of the COP contained in paragraph 9 above.

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