



FCTC

WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

FCTC/COP/6/VR

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL**

Sixth session

MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, 13–18 OCTOBER 2014

**VERBATIM RECORDS
OF PLENARY MEETINGS**

GENEVA
2015



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PREFACE

The sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control was held in Moscow, Russian Federation, from 13 to 18 October 2014. The report of proceedings (containing the decisions) was adopted by the COP at the end of the session, and is available at <http://www.who.int/fctc/publications>. In addition, the verbatim records of plenary meetings are issued in the current volume (FCTC/COP/6/VR).

The documentation, including the list of participants, is also available at <http://www.who.int/fctc/publications>.

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VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS
FIRST PLENARY MEETING

Monday, 13 October 2014, at 10:20

President: Professor C.J. Moon (Republic of Korea)

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

The PRESIDENT:

The Conference is called to order. Distinguished delegates, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, good morning and a warm welcome. It is a pleasure to receive all of you here in Moscow. In my capacity as President of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), I have the honour to open the sixth session of the COP. On behalf of the Conference, I have the honour and pleasure of welcoming Madame Veronika Skvortsova, the Minister of Healthcare of the Russian Federation.

(Applause)

We also have the honour of the presence of Dr Margaret Chan, the Director-General of WHO, who will be with us today.

(Applause)

I shall leave the President's remarks to later this morning; in the meantime I have the honour to give the floor to Madame Veronika Skvortsova, the Minister of Healthcare of the Russian Federation. I was informed that His Excellency President Vladimir Putin was not able to be with us today; however, he asked Madame Veronika Skvortsova to deliver a message to this Conference on his behalf.

(Applause)

2. OPENING REMARKS BY THE MINISTER OF HEALTHCARE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, DR VERONIKA IGOREVNA SKVORTSOVA

Добрый день, уважаемые дамы и господа, дорогие коллеги!

Я рада приветствовать вас в Москве на 6 сессии Конференции Сторон Рамочной конвенции ВОЗ по борьбе против табака. Позвольте начать свое выступление с оглашения приветствия Президента Российской Федерации Владимира Владимировича Путина:
«Уважаемые друзья,

Приветствую в Москве делегатов и гостей 6 сессии Конференции Сторон Рамочной конвенции ВОЗ по борьбе против табака. Прежде всего, хочу отметить большую значимую роль рамочной конвенции ВОЗ в консолидации усилий, направленных на эффективную реализацию масштабных международных программ, призванных содействовать укреплению

здоровья людей, борьбе с табакокурением. Россия в полной мере разделяет ключевые цели и идеи Конвенции, способствует их активному продвижению в нашей стране.

Вред, который наносит пристрастие к табаку, очевиден. Страдают не только сами курильщики, но и их близкие и те, кто находится рядом. Мы стремимся ограничить потребление табака, защитить от пассивного курения детей и взрослых, оградить их от табачной рекламы и, конечно, оказываем медицинскую помощь тем, кто страдает от табачной зависимости, делаем всё для того, чтобы сохранить здоровье нации, улучшить качество и продолжительность жизни наших граждан. Для этого мы не только совершенствуем законодательство и развиваем систему профилактики, но и рассчитываем на широкую поддержку общества.

Уверен, что Ваш представительный форум внесет значимый вклад в борьбу с курением, будет способствовать снижению смертности от болезней, вызываемых потреблением табака, предложит действенные решения в этой сфере.

Желаю всем продуктивной работы и успехов в достижении поставленных целей.

Владимир Путин.»

Уважаемые коллеги, для нас большая честь принимать сегодня в гостях делегатов более чем из 180 государств, представителей международных межправительственных и неправительственных организаций, собравшихся для обсуждения одного из самых вопросов здравоохранения – вопроса противодействия потреблению табака.

Мы должны помнить, что здоровье – это не только важнейшее благо, но и незыблемое право любого человека. Обеспечение этого права – одна из главных задач государства. Поэтому ни одна страна не могла оставаться безучастной по отношению к стремительно нарастающей эпидемии неинфекционных заболеваний, одним из факторов риска которых является табак.

К сожалению, Россия долгое время занимала лидирующие позиции по потреблению табака населением. По данным глобального опроса в 2009 году в Росси курило почти 40% взрослого населения. Эта печальная статистика требовала принятия неотложных мер со стороны государства. Отправным пунктом для нас в этой борьбе стало присоединение к числу стран, ратифицировавших Рамочную конвенцию ВОЗ по борьбе против табака. Эта конвенция уникальна: она является самым быстро ратифицируемым и самым большим по количеству участников международным соглашением в сфере здравоохранения.

В 2010 году мы утвердили Национальную антитабачную концепцию, которая устанавливала основные направления для развития борьбы с потреблением табака в России, такие как: повышение цен и акцизов на табак, изменение налоговой политики, введение полного и частичного запрета курения в общественных местах, меры по снижению количества вредных веществ в табачных изделиях, просвещение и информирование населения о вреде потребления табака, запрет рекламы, спонсорства и стимулирования продаж табачных изделий, организация медицинской помощи населению и лечения табачной зависимости.

Главным событием в нашей стране стало принятие в 2013 году Федерального закона о защите населения от последствий потребления табака и окружающего табачного дыма, которым были введены в действие основные международно признанные меры. В России впервые перестали курить в местах общественного питания и на транспорте, была запрещена реклама табачных изделий, на телевидении появились предупреждающие заставки, если в программах содержится сцена курения.

Основным достоинством принятого закона стала его системность, которая позволила соединить нормы, относящиеся к различным областям права в единый комплекс мер. Таким образом, за 6 лет, прошедших с присоединения России к рамочной конвенции, мы ввели в действие все предусмотренные ею меры. В результате – жители нашей страны сегодня защищены от пассивного курения, наши дети больше не видят табачной рекламы, а все формы продвижения табака запрещены. Акцизы на табачные изделия ежегодно растут, опережая инфляцию, при этом каждый, кто захочет получить информацию о состоянии своего здоровья, может пройти бесплатную диспансеризацию, а те, кто нуждается в медицинской помощи, включая помощь по отказу от курения и лечению табачной зависимости, могут также получить её бесплатно. Отмечу, что за первый год диспансеризацию прошли 35,5 млн. человек, а

количество лиц, позвонивших на специально созданную горячую линию по отказу от потребления табака, приблизилось к 1 млн. человек.

Многие выражали мнение о том, что меры слишком жесткие и не будут поддержаны населением. Однако статистика показывает, что 8 из 10 граждан Российской Федерации поддерживают введенные антитабачные меры. Также высок и процент соблюдения новых запретов. Например, в местах общественного питания – 96%, в торговых точках – 89%.

Новые меры привели к положительному эффекту: потребление табака снизилось на 16-17%, существенно уменьшилась смертность от всех основных групп неинфекционных заболеваний (до уровней, которые ещё в 2011 году мы предполагали лишь на 2016-2020 годы), ожидаемая продолжительность жизни достигла своего исторического максимума (подошла практически к 72 годам, у женщин превысила 77 лет). Впервые за 30 лет мы вышли на естественный прирост населения. Мы не намерены останавливаться на достигнутом, не планируем замедлять темп борьбы с потреблением табака в России или ослаблять закон, который уже доказал свою эффективность.

В связи с этим я хотела бы сообщить, что правительством Российской Федерации принято решение о присоединении нашей страны к протоколу о незаконной торговле табачными изделиями (соответствующий законопроект в настоящее время подготовлен Министерством здравоохранения).

Дорогие коллеги, я уверена, что сегодняшняя Конференция Сторон станет важным вкладом в дело антитабачной борьбы во всем мире. Желаю вам здоровья, конструктивных дискуссий и достижения всех поставленных целей. Желаю вам также найти немного времени для того, чтобы Вы имели возможность познакомиться с одним из самых красивых городов мира, столицей Российской Федерации, городом Москвой.

Спасибо вам за участие. Спасибо.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Madame Minister; we take note of your good policies to further implement the Convention and the commitment of the Russian Government to improve the health of people through strong tobacco control measures. May I kindly ask you on behalf of all of us to convey our high appreciation to President Putin for sending this message to this Conference and for hosting this session in Moscow?

I would like to invite Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of WHO, to address the Conference. Dr Chan, you have the floor.

(Applause)

3. OPENING REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF WHO, DR MARGARET CHAN

Dr CHAN (Director-General, WHO):

Thank you, Professor Chang-jin Moon, President of COP6. Thank you also, Minister Veronika Skvortsova, my dear sister.

Honourable ministers, distinguished delegates, colleagues and friends in public health and in the UN. I see many old friends in the audience. So good to see so many of you.

Ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

First, allow me to thank the Government of the Russian Federation for hosting this sixth session of the COP. I have to say, personally, I have witnessed the commitment of this government, led by President Putin himself and of course you, sister Veronika, for overcoming very tough challenges to push through a very comprehensive law to control tobacco.

The law came into full force on the 1st of June this year. I want to thank you for your leadership. Many people told me years ago this will never happen in the Russian Federation. Thank you for proving them wrong.

Speculation is a very interesting hobby for many people. Some people speculated that I would not attend this meeting because I am so busy with so many other outbreaks of communicable diseases.

No. No. No. I will not cancel my attendance at this meeting because it is too important.

On the subject of communicable diseases, I do need to make a few comments.

In just the past few days, the volatile microbial world has delivered some sharp reminders of its power. Egypt confirmed a case of H5N1 avian influenza in an infant. Austria reported its first imported case of the MERS coronavirus. The US confirmed its first two Ebola cases. And Spain confirmed the first instance of Ebola transmission on its soil.

Ladies and gentlemen.

In a world replete with so many new and old threats, we turn to tobacco control. Tobacco control unquestionably is our biggest, surest, and best opportunity to save some millions of lives. I am very pleased to be with you today to see this meeting off to a very good start.

As you all know, I have never shied away from embracing WHO's position as the tobacco industry's number one enemy. I regard this as a badge of honour. It is in this spirit that WHO lends the voice of public health, and the power of peer-reviewed evidence, to countries that are facing predictable and forceful opposition from the industry.

As implementation of the Framework Convention reaches new heights, the tobacco industry fights back, harder and through every possible channel, no matter how devious those channels and practices are. Litigation brought against governments in national courts has been common, especially against the approval of large pictorial warnings on tobacco product packages.

In an especially worrisome trend, the tobacco industry is using bilateral investment treaties to try to deter governments from protecting the health of their citizens through strong tobacco control measures that are known to work. This has been the case with claims filed against Uruguay's warning labels and branding measures, and this is also true because of the robust and courageous actions taken by Australia in plain packaging. Australia's plain packaging is also the object of a dispute at the World Trade Organization. All eyes are on this case. There are more third Parties to the dispute than ever before in WTO history.

Most recently, and in a particularly brazen move, the tobacco industry brought its agenda and its voice here to the heart of tobacco control. Yesterday, the International Tax and Investment Centre, whose board of directors includes several tobacco companies, convened Parties and observers to discuss tobacco tax and price policies without fully disclosing their vested interests.

Please, do not be fooled by them.

Their agenda, at least, is easy to see: to undermine your power, your efforts to adopt the robust, expert-driven proposed guidelines on tobacco tax and price policy. These guidelines, when used to implement the treaty's Article 6, will protect children and young people, in particular, from initiating tobacco use.

There is an exchange of views recorded in the mountains of internal industry documents that are now in the public domain. Let me share with you one such document. It records a discussion – an internal discussion – about whether the industry should consider children as part of its market. I remember very well one reply, which I would like to quote directly: “They got lips? We want them.”

So ladies and gentlemen, this is the kind of tobacco industry tactic. They just want more and more market share. They could not care less if they are killing children.

Again, don't be fooled by them.

What is the next challenge? The next challenge is that the tobacco industry is increasing its dominance over the market for electronic cigarettes. This should not come as a surprise. One company used this year's World No Tobacco Day to call on WHO, and call on all of your governments, to promote electronic cigarettes as a way of protecting some of the lives that they themselves are killing with the other products they sell.

We also heard a familiar argument. That company insists that it “can and should be a part of this debate and possible solutions”.

No way. As I have said before, giving any tobacco company a place at the negotiating table is akin to appointing a committee of foxes to take care of your chickens.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We have abundant evidence from multiple sources that implementation of the Framework Convention brings both immediate and long-term improvements for health. As I said in 2011, when the UN General Assembly – your governments – issued its landmark resolution on noncommunicable diseases, let me quote: “Full implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control would deal the greatest single preventive blow to all of these diseases.”

As time has shown, the tobacco treaty is important for a second reason. It is a model of how multiple sectors of government, and multiple UN agencies, can work together seamlessly and in tandem, united by a most worthy shared goal. The importance of this model continues to grow as more and more of the century’s biggest threats to health have multiple root causes and as the countries in this world are doing their utmost to fully implement the treaty, and the articles of the Convention.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me wish you a most productive session here in Moscow as you move through a heavy but vitally important agenda.

And also let me join Minister Veronika: Yes, you need to work hard, but do find some time to appreciate this beautiful city. Thank you.

(Applause)

4. OPENING REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES, PROFESSOR C.J. MOON

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Dr Chan, for sharing your views on the implementation and challenges of the Convention, and for your inspiring message.

Before we move to the agenda item on the adoption of the agenda, I hope you will allow me to say a few words. Allow me first, distinguished delegates, to thank you for electing me as the President of this sixth session of the COP during the fifth session that was held in Seoul two years ago.

Since then, I have had the honour of chairing the Bureau with my fellow members of the Bureau. I have followed important steps taken to advance implementation of the decisions of COP5, and work closely with them and the Secretariat for the preparations of this Conference. The Bureau had a heavy agenda in the intersessional period. We met three times, face-to-face, and had several meetings through telephone conferences to review progress in implementing a number of decisions taken by COP5 in 2012, and more generally to fulfil our mandate, in particular in fulfilling our role between sessions. The Bureau provided guidance to the Secretariat, reviewed global and regional development in implementation of the Convention and discussed the outline of a number of reports that will be considered by this Conference during this week. The Bureau also regularly reviewed the progress in implementing the workplan and budget adopted by the COP and closely followed the preparations for COP6.

The Bureau also had another three meetings to finalize the process for appointment of the Head of Convention Secretariat and to make a recommendation to the Director-General of WHO as requested by COP5. The work was completed as requested and on time. On behalf of the COP, allow me to wish a warm welcome to Dr Vera da Costa e Silva, new Head of the Secretariat. Allow me to take this opportunity to thank Bureau members for their invaluable support and contribution during the intersessional period. Also, thanks to the Secretariat for their work. In particular, my special thanks go to Dr Haik Nikogosian for the dedication to his work as the Head of the Convention Secretariat from the initial stage of this Convention.

Distinguished delegates, with your support I shall preside over this session in a positive and constructive manner in order to reach consensus and I am sure that we will meet our objectives. Let me explain major progress made since our last meeting. Important progress in implementing the Convention has been made since COP5. The Convention was ratified by another three States. May I

take this opportunity to express my congratulations to El Salvador, Ethiopia and Tajikistan on having ratified the Convention? With this recent ratification, the Conference will count 179 Parties when the Convention will enter into force for El Salvador at the end of this week. Congratulations, and please join me in welcoming them with great applause.

(Applause)

Much has been accomplished since COP5. In particular, I would like to mention that the Protocol was adopted at our last session, currently counting 54 signatories and four Parties, namely Gabon, Mongolia, Nicaragua and Uruguay. Congratulations to all of them.

(Applause)

The intergovernmental groups established by COP5 made good progress and will present their reports and proposals for implementation of Articles 6, 9 and 10, 17 and 18, and 19, and on sustainable measures to strengthen implementation of the Convention.

At the same time I must say that several challenges are still ahead of us. The first one is the Protocol to Eliminate Tobacco Trade in Illicit Products; it needs more support from the Parties in order to enter into force. Support is not only needed in signing and ratifying the Protocol, but also raising awareness of the importance of the Protocol and the importance of international cooperation in combatting illicit tobacco trade; building national capacity and assistance especially to developing and least developed countries is another key component. The second one is the tobacco industry. You will recall that at COP5 we adopted the Seoul Declaration to respond against interference of the tobacco industry. However, interference by the tobacco industry continues and is evolving faster than tobacco control policies. In this regard, I more than welcome seeing that the Conference will discuss this week how to strengthen implementation of Article 5.3 at this session, and I hope that we will make remarkable progress. The third one is newly emerging tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and waterpipe tobacco smoking, and other challenges we are facing. Considering the expanding market of these products, I urge all Parties to acknowledge that control of these tobacco products is an issue requiring global attention and action.

The WHO FCTC will celebrate its 10 year anniversary of entering into force next year and we are here to make history. We will face more challenges but I believe our actions to fight against tobacco products and the tobacco industry will provide us with greater opportunities. We have an important agenda to cover this week; as in previous sessions the work ahead of us this week will be intense, but I have no doubt that the outcome will be productive and successful thanks to all your contributions. I wish to state that the Bureau and myself in particular will be at the disposal of delegations to assist you as necessary to achieve the objectives of this session.

Thank you for your attention.

(Applause)

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The PRESIDENT:

We shall now turn to agenda item 1.1 and consider the adoption of the agenda and organization of work contained in document FCTC/COP/6/1 Rev.2, and FCTC/COP/6/1 Rev.2 (annotated). May I propose that we consider the organization of work after adoption of the agenda? The provisional agenda was prepared in consultation with the Bureau, and in accordance with Rules 6 and 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the COP, before being circulated to the Parties. You will note that agenda items 4.4.3, 4.8, 6.7 and 6.8 have been proposed by Parties in accordance with Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the COP. Are there any objections to adopting the provisional agenda as presented in document FCTC/ COP/6/1 Rev.2? I see none. The agenda is therefore adopted.

6. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT:

We can now consider the organization of work of this session.

The Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, has made a proposal on the method and distribution of work which is contained in the annotated agenda, document FCTC/COP/6/1 Rev.2 (annotated). Specifically, the proposal is that, following the practice of the previous sessions of the COP, and considering the amount of work before us, the Conference may wish to establish two committees that will work in parallel.

It is proposed that one committee, Committee A, could be entrusted with treaty instruments and technical matters under agenda item 4.

The other committee, Committee B, could work on agenda item 5 related to implementation and international cooperation and agenda item 6 related to budgetary and institutional matters.

Also, the committees may wish to establish working groups, if necessary, to expedite work.

I think you will also agree that the other remaining items on the agenda will be taken up in Plenary as follows:

- agenda item 1.2: report on credentials;
- agenda item 1.3: election of a new member of the Bureau to represent the Region of the Americas, in replacement of the member of Canada who resigned from his post;
- agenda item 2: applications for observer status;
- agenda item 3: Address of the Head of the Secretariat and the report on global progress in implementation of the Convention and the general debate;
- agenda item 7: date and venue of the next regular session of the Conference;
- agenda item 8: election of officers of the Bureau; and finally
- agenda item 9: adoption of the provisional report of the COP.

Also, the Bureau was informed that one Party requested that agenda item 6.7 on the attendance of members of the public in COP sessions and its subsidiary bodies be dealt with in plenary as early as possible. The proposal is to take this item after agenda item 2 on the applications for observer status.

Are these proposals acceptable?

I see no objection. It is so decided.

Regarding the officers of the two committees, I would like to recall rule 28.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the COP, stating that, unless the Conference decides otherwise, it is the committees themselves that elect their respective officers.

I would like to remind delegates that, in order to ensure regional representation, the Committees may wish to elect one chairperson and two vice-chairpersons, thereby bringing the total number of officers to six. You will recall that the previous sessions of COP followed this practice, ensuring representation from all six regions.

After consultations, most regional groups have proposed one name and the Bureau has discussed these candidacies at its meeting yesterday. The Bureau has asked regional groups to also consider who among the six candidates might be considered as chair of Committee A and Chair of Committee B, once all candidatures have been received. Consultations in this regard are still ongoing and we expect to have a proposal for one chair and two vice-chairs for each committee for consideration this afternoon. Accordingly, consideration of this matter will be postponed until we receive feedback from the regional groups.

I would like to inform you that the seating arrangements for this meeting are according to the practice with all Parties sitting in the English alphabetic order. For this session, the letter "O" was drawn by lot, therefore the seating order starts with Oman. However, I have been informed that for the remaining meetings this week, the regions would like to have the seating arranged in regional groups to facilitate regional coordination, as was the practice at previous sessions. This will be put in place, beginning tomorrow morning. I hope this proposal is agreeable.

I see no objection, it is so decided.

Thank you for your attention.

7. CREDENTIALS OF PARTICIPANTS

The PRESIDENT:

We shall now turn to agenda item 1.2, which is the report on credentials of participants. I would like to recall that, in accordance with Rule 19 of the Rules of Procedure, the Bureau shall examine the credentials of the Parties participating in this session. It is proposed that the Bureau shall report in writing at a later meeting of the plenary, tentatively on Wednesday morning.

In accordance with Rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure of the COP, delegations shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the session, pending decision by the Conference to accept their credentials. May I remind delegations who have not yet submitted their formal credentials to please submit by tomorrow, Tuesday morning, to the registration desk? Is this proposal regarding the timing for the report on credentials acceptable? I see no objection. It is so decided.

8. ELECTION OF A MEMBER OF THE BUREAU TO REPRESENT THE REGION OF THE AMERICAS IN REPLACEMENT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA

The PRESIDENT:

We shall now elect a new member of the Bureau to represent the Region of the Americas in replacement of the representative of Canada who submitted his resignation. The Secretariat and the Bureau were also informed that Canada would not be represented at this session.

Rule 24.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference deals with the replacement of a member of the Bureau in case he or she resigns or is otherwise unable to complete the assigned term of office. This Rule also stipulates that a representative of the same Party shall be designated by the Party concerned in his or her place for the remainder of the original term of office.

As Canada is not represented at this session, the Region of the Americas was invited to put forward a new candidate to replace Mr Choinière for the remainder of his term of office. The Bureau was informed that the Region of the Americas agreed that Panama has put forward the candidacy of Dr Reina Roa from the Ministry of Health of Panama to replace Mr Choinière of Canada on the Bureau until the closure of this session. Is there any objection to electing Dr Reina Roa of Panama as Vice-President of the COP to represent the Region of the Americas on the Bureau, in accordance with Rule 21.1 of the Rules of Procedure? I see no objection. Dr Reina Roa of Panama is therefore elected as member of the Bureau until closure of this session.

(Applause)

On behalf of the Bureau I would like to express our warm thanks and high appreciation of Mr Denis Choinière's personal contribution and dedication during the intersessional period. Mr Choinière has played an important role in the work of the Bureau and in facilitating coordination with the Region of the Americas. Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Dr Reina Roa as Bureau member and thank her for her availability. Thank you.

9. APPLICATIONS FOR THE STATUS OF OBSERVER TO THE COP

The PRESIDENT:

The next item is the consideration of applications for observer status to the COP. We shall review the new applications received by the Secretariat and contained in documents COP/6/3 and COP/6/3 Add.1.

Under this agenda item, we shall also review the application of INTERPOL for which the COP deferred its consideration until this session, to seek further clarification. The reference document is COP/6/4.

If you agree, I would like to start with the new five applications received by the Secretariat, namely: first, the East African Community which is an intergovernmental organization applying in accordance with Rule 30.1 of the Rule of Procedure of the Conference. And the other four: the Zimbabwe Framework for Tobacco Control Trust (ZFTCT), the World Farmers Organization, the Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA), and the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK), which are all four nongovernmental organizations applying for the status of observer in accordance with Rule 31.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the COP.

The Conference is invited to take note of the information provided by the applying organizations and that is contained in documents COP/6/3 and COP/6/3 Add.1, including the recommendations of the Bureau, and consider granting observer status in accordance with Rules 30 and 31 of the Rules of Procedure. Is the Conference willing to endorse the recommendations contained in the documents in front of us regarding the four applying organizations?

Uganda you have the floor, followed by Uruguay.

Dr NDYANABANGI (Uganda):

Thank you very much Mr President, I am speaking concerning the East African Community. Uganda proposes that the observer status for the East African Community be deferred, because as of now there is still some confusion regarding tobacco control at the East African Community level in Arusha, because matters of tobacco control are often put in the committee of trade, which has the tobacco industry interests. So, we propose that it is deferred until they are sensitized and made to understand the elements of the WHO FCTC and the rules, so that they can be able to conform to the rules regarding the FCTC. So, because of that confusion, we propose that it is deferred until the next COP. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you Uganda, the floor is open to Nigeria.

Dr USORO (Nigeria):

Thank you very much, Chairman. Actually we are opposed to accepting INTERPOL for an observer status, for the following reasons. Number one: we are actually aware that they had an agreement with Philip Morris, which was not disclosed; and number two, there is also information available to the African Region that they may have obtained some funding to the tune of about 15 million euros, which also has not been disclosed. So I do not think that it will be appropriate to admit an intergovernmental organization like INTERPOL, which we may not have the opportunity to review. An NGO could be reviewed and removed subsequently, but with INTERPOL we cannot do that. So that is why we raise objection to this. It is the position of the African Region. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you Nigeria for your intervention, but the issue of INTERPOL shall be discussed at the discussion on the observer status of these NGOs, and then we will discuss INTERPOL. Are there any interventions? Uganda you have the floor.

Dr NDYANABANGI (Uganda):

Mr President, I have a question. Are we discussing the observer status of the farmers' group organization now?

The PRESIDENT:

Yes, please.

Dr NDYANABANGI (Uganda):

So, Uganda once again would like to reject the observer status for the farmers' organization, because as is very clear, the farmers have always been used as a front group for the tobacco industry. A case in point is during COP4 in Uruguay, when we were almost attacked physically by the tobacco growers' associations. So looking at those experiences in our countries, Uganda proposes that we do not give these farmers observer status, because most of them are part and parcel of the tobacco industry. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you for your intervention. Are there any other interventions on this item? India, you have the floor, followed by Burkina Faso.

Mr MISHRA (India):

Thank you Chair for giving us the floor. I speak on behalf of the South-East Asia Region. As far as the farmers' organization is concerned, we need to be a little guarded in the matter. In our view, the acceptance of the application from the organization at this stage, without adequate safeguards and mechanisms to ensure that there is no association with the tobacco industry, may be premature. We would like to clarify that the issues of engaging and helping farmers in the context of policy options and guidelines under Articles 17 and 18 are important, and need to be carefully considered. However, we need to block the entry of the tobacco industry in any manner whatsoever and therefore this decision to accept the application of the World Farmers Organization for conferring the status of observer may perhaps presently be premature.

The PRESIDENT:

Burkina Faso you have the floor.

Dr NARE (Burkina Faso):

Merci bien Monsieur le Président. Je voudrais tout simplement appuyer le point de vue de l'Ouganda. Merci bien.

The PRESIDENT:

Togo, you have the floor.

Dr KUMAKO (Togo):

Le Togo tenait d'abord à appuyer la proposition de l'Ouganda, mais aussi soumettre une réflexion sur le Trust du Zimbabwe, qui est une ONG que nous ne connaissons pas vraiment en Afrique. À ce titre, nous voulons que sa demande soit réexaminée et que cette COP6 diffère son intégration en tant que membre observateur. Merci.

The PRESIDENT:

Philippines, you have the floor.

Dr PADILLA (Philippines):

On the other hand, Mr President we would like to endorse the observer status of SEATCA. Thank you, Mr Chair.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you Philippines. So, may I give the floor to Zimbabwe?

Mr KATSANDE (Zimbabwe):

Thank you Mr., chairman, we want to confirm the position of the request to defer consideration of the application by the ZFTCT until we find out who exactly this organization is. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you for your intervention. Oman, you have the floor.

Dr AL-LAWATI (Oman):

Thank you Mr. Chair. I think there was confusion obviously – which you clarified later – that INTERPOL is not included in this discussion. There are about four groups which are in the paper that was submitted by the Secretariat (FCTC/COP/6/3), so I suggest that you untangle these four groups, we take them one by one, because there are objections on one, and it is getting a little confusing, so let's take each, each organization, or NGO, which submitted, and then discuss it, and then we agree on it or not agree, and then we move forward. And later, obviously, as you said, we will discuss INTERPOL, which is the wider matter for discussion, thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Yes. To deal with this agenda item may I suggest that we decide one by one? May I propose of the status of the NGOs, based on the interventions now, to talk about the East African Community? The interventions are to defer the granting of observer status now, so in my view there is no consensus on the granting of the observer status for the East African Community. And secondly, the ZFTCT is also not so positive in granting observer status; certainly the World Farmers Organization is also not so positive in accepting the observer status to the COP. The remaining organizations, SEATCA and the CTFK: to talk about SEATCA there are supportive interventions from the floor, and CTFK, there are no special interventions, yes or no, on this organization. That's my summary of interventions up to now, so if there is no consensus on the granting of observer status to these NGOs, maybe we can conclude that we defer the granting of observer status to the next COP. There is the East African Community, the ZFTCT, the World Farmers Organization. Those are my observations up to now. I have a list of Parties, who wish to make an intervention: Uganda, followed by Thailand and Maldives. Uganda you have the floor.

Dr NDYANABANGI (Uganda):

Thank you very much, Mr. President. Uganda, speaking on behalf of the African Region would like to endorse that CTFK be given observer status. Looking at their record in supporting most of our countries in tobacco control and on their clear record that they have no inference from the tobacco industry. So Uganda proposes that we accept the CTFK, on behalf of the African Region. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you for your intervention, and Thailand.

Dr CHEANKLIN (Thailand):

Thank you. Thailand speaks on behalf of the South-East Asia Region, and we fully support the CTFK also. I'm quite confused as to why we don't just go one organization by one, whether we grant

observer status or not. Because now everybody just moves from one organization to another without knowing which one is being discussed. May I further support SEATCA's application for observer status? As the South-East Asia Region, we fully support the granting of observer status to SEATCA. SEATCA has actively played a crucial role in supporting many countries in the Region to enhance tobacco control policy and WHO FCTC implementation. The contribution and involvement in the past years has significantly assisted the countries in implementing the WHO FCTC. Many regional activities initiated by SEATCA have enhanced sharing expertise and best practice among Parties. We would like to see them continue their role and continue to do more with observer status to the COP, thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you Thailand. Maldives, you have the floor, followed by Nigeria.

Dr MOHAMED (Maldives):

Thank you Chair and good morning everyone. With the intervention from my colleague from Thailand, I think the clarification and our statement from the Region actually serves the purpose for which I raised the flag. But in conclusion I would like to clarify once again: when we are discussing this issue we are only discussing the four organizations in the first document? That is why we are not discussing the CTFK issue; however, we understand now we are doing all together and I thank my colleague from Thailand for raising it and supporting us. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Nigeria you have the floor.

Dr USORO (Nigeria):

Thank you Mr President. Actually, we support the observer status of CTFK, the comment is not necessary anymore because Uganda has spoken on behalf of the African Region. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Togo, followed by Uruguay.

Dr KUMAKO (Togo):

Le Togo au nom de la Région africaine, voulait appuyer la proposition qu'a faite l'Ouganda par rapport à la CTFK. Merci.

The PRESIDENT:

Uruguay.

Dr ABASCAL (Uruguay):

Gracias, señor Presidente. Queríamos expresar nuestro decidido apoyo a la campaña para liberar a los niños del tabaco, CTFK, porque siempre hemos tenido la cooperación y el constante apoyo de esa organización en favor del control del tabaco.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Bhutan followed by Senegal.

Ms ZAM (Bhutan):

Thank you, I speak on behalf of the South-East Asia Region, and this is regarding endorsement of the observer status to CTFK.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Senegal, followed by Bangladesh.

Mr NGINGUE (Senegal):

Je voulais attirer votre attention sur la manière dont nous discutons sur la participation ou non d'une association. Personnellement, je suis un peu confus et pour reprendre une idée déjà soumise, je suis pour que l'on discute association par association.

Ensuite, je ne vois pas en quoi le statut d'observateur peut être gênant. Éventuellement, s'il s'agit d'une organisation ayant des accointances avec l'industrie du tabac, celles-ci devront d'abord être démontrées. Devant le risque d'affirmations gratuites, il serait donc plus pertinent d'examiner chaque association séparément et décider collectivement si nous lui attribuons le statut d'observateur.

Je propose donc que le contenu de chaque association soit soumis à notre analyse, avant de décider si lui attribuer le statut d'observateur est pertinent ou non. Chaque délégation pourrait exposer son refus et ses arguments sur l'existence d'accointances avec l'industrie du tabac, sans statuer de façon péremptoire. Je vous remercie.

The PRESIDENT:

I have a long list of interventions in my list: Bangladesh, followed by Kenya.

Ms QUADER (Bangladesh):

Thank you Chair. Bangladesh supports the idea to grant observer status to CTFK, as the organization has been supporting the NGOs in Bangladesh in the tobacco control related programmes since long before. In fact, their activities are appreciated. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

I would like to interrupt for a second to facilitate the consideration of this agenda item. I think the best way to deal with this item is that I would like to suggest that we can consider the observer status of these organizations one by one, so the next intervention should be focused on the East African Community, whether to accept observer status. If there are some Parties who wish to speak about the East African Community, I will open the floor to the Parties. So please start with the East African Community. From the comments up until now, most interventions are negative in accepting this organization as observer to the COP. So if there are no objections, the COP will defer the consideration of observer status to the next COP. No objections? Kenya, you have the floor.

Ms KIPTUI (Kenya):

Thank you, Chair. Kenya would like to reinforce your decision to defer but not to reject this decision until the East African Community member States conclude on the discussions that are currently ongoing in the Region, thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT:

Yes, the conclusion is to defer the consideration of observer status. So, if there are no objections, it is so decided. The next organization is the ZFTCT. From the many interventions up until now, I

understand the Conference does not wish to give observer status to this organization. So, may I conclude that this organization, the consideration should be deferred to the next COP? Kenya, you have the floor

Ms KIPTUI (Kenya):

Thank you, Mr President. This organization is a national body and was recently established. And as we checked on this organization, there were no referees in the African Region who knew about this organization. There are no activities reported so far in tobacco control. On behalf of the African Region, we agreed that this organization has no roots in the African Region, it is just a national organization, it does not meet the requirements for observer status to apply for this position so we propose that is actually rejected, not deferred because it doesn't meet the criteria for an observer organization.

The PRESIDENT:

Yes, the distinguished delegate of Kenya proposes that ZFTCT should be rejected rather than deferred. It is acceptable? Are there no objections? It is so decided. The next organization is the World Farmers Organization. From the many interventions, the Parties seem to wish not to accept the observer status. So I propose that the World Farmers Organization, the consideration should be deferred to the next COP. Kenya, you have the floor.

Ms KIPTUI (Kenya):

Thank you, Mr President, once again. The concerns that we have with this application as the African Region is that it is just a farmer organization, and as Uganda earlier mentioned, there is a risk of the tobacco industry entering through this organization, it is the opinion of the African Region that it is rejected until it proves that it has interest in tobacco control and not to intervene as a farmer organization, pushing the interest of tobacco farmers. Secondly, this organization has no information on tobacco control activities or even examples of diversification, and they have not proved to have any expertise in supporting diversification of tobacco farmers to healthier and more profitable crops or alternative livelihoods for tobacco farmers, and therefore we propose that it be rejected until a point where they have actually evidence and proof that they want to support tobacco control, and they can have demonstrable evidence of the work they have done, then it can be considered at that time. By deferring, it means it can be discussed later but at this point in time the African Region feels that it is not ready to accept this organization as an observer, thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you for your proposal. So, is that proposal of Kenya acceptable? There is no objection, so it is so decided. The next organization is SEATCA. From my observations on the interventions, there are no special objections to accept this organization as an observer as the COP. So if there are no objections, I would like to conclude that the COP wishes to accept this organization as an observer to the COP. No objections? So it is so decided.

The next organization is CTFK: I observed the strong supportive interventions from the floor; many Parties wish to accept this organization as an observer to the COP. Are there no objections? Costa Rica, followed by Congo.

Dr CASTRO-CÓRDOBA, (Costa Rica):

Gracias, señor Presidente. No queremos hacer una objeción, queremos manifestar de parte de Costa Rica que el apoyo que hemos recibido de Tobacco Free Kids al desarrollo de la Ley en Costa Rica y las campañas que hemos desarrollado ha sido sumamente importante y no quisieramos

quedarnos callados sin apoyar de manera importante esta ratificación como observador de la Campaña Niños sin Tabaco. Gracias.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Costa Rica. Democratic Republic of the Congo then Kyrgyzstan, you have the floor.

Dr MBUYU MUTEBA YAMBELE (Democratic Republic of the Congo):

Merci Monsieur le Président.

Au nom de la Région africaine, je voulais ajouter que nous avons de nombreuses preuves confirmant les activités de soutien à la lutte antitabac par cette organisation. Par conséquent, nous ne voyons pas d'inconvénient à ce que le statut d'observateur lui soit accordé. Merci.

The PRESIDENT:

Kyrgyzstan, you have the floor.

Dr BEKBASAROVA (Kyrgyzstan):

Спасибо, Председатель.

Доброе утро всем. Кыргызстан поддерживает статус в предоставлении СТФК. Спасибо.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Kyrgyzstan. No more interventions?

So from the comments, may I take it that the COP wishes to accept CTFK as an observer to the COP. No objections? So it is so decided.

We shall now continue with the application of INTERPOL. You will recall that we agreed at the fifth session that the Conference required a further clarification on the application of INTERPOL to adequately consider whether to grant observer status. In that context, the Conference mandated its Bureau to liaise with INTERPOL and seek further clarification, in particular in relation to Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC. As mandated by the COP, the Bureau contacted INTERPOL and requested further clarification on its application. The Bureau also shared the information provided by INTERPOL with the Parties. In addition, as suggested by a number of Parties, the Bureau invited INTERPOL to its third meeting in Geneva to provide an opportunity for an open discussion and clarification. The outcome of the Bureau's interaction with INTERPOL is contained in document FCTC/COP/6/4, which also includes, in the annex, the official text provided by INTERPOL itself in response to the Bureau's request for further clarification. I would like to mention that the Bureau's interaction with INTERPOL was conducted in an open and constructive spirit from both sides. Before I open the floor, I would like to draw the attention of this Conference to the information provided in paragraph 6 of the document in front of us, namely that INTERPOL reiterated its interest and willingness to contribute to and participate in the implementation of the Protocol, and in that context, considering its expertise, INTERPOL believes that its role would be more relevant to the work of the future Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. In light of the information provided to the Bureau in document FCTC/COP/6/4, the Conference may consider granting observer status through the COP. Or, if this is not deemed appropriate, INTERPOL may consider applying in the future for observer status to the Meeting of the Parties. This will be a matter for the Meeting of the Parties itself to consider and it is not necessary for the COP to take a view on such a possibility. Now I would like to open the floor for comment on this matter. European Union, you have the floor.

Ms WIMMER (European Union):

Thank you very much, Mr President, I'm speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its member States. The EU and its member States welcome the report by the Secretariat on

INTERPOL's application and we also thank the Bureau for the action it has undertaken in the intersessional period following the mandate given by COP5. The EU would also like to thank INTERPOL for the letter submitted in response to the request for clarification regarding the safeguards to protect its policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry. The EU recognizes the central role of INTERPOL in the prevention of and the fight against international crime. The EU also agrees that there is a need to mobilize different international enforcement organizations to ensure a high level of public health and to contain and reduce the illicit trade in tobacco products. In this context, the EU takes note of the interest that INTERPOL expresses in the work of the future meetings of the Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, and we agree that probably there is more direct relevance for INTERPOL in this particular area of work. Having regard to the report submitted to this COP, as well as to the statement of the EU and to its member States in the last meeting of the COP, the EU remains of the opinion that observer status should not be granted to an organization receiving funding from the tobacco industry. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, European Union. Kenya, you have the floor.

Ms KIPTUI (Kenya):

Thank you very much Mr President and on behalf of the African Region, Kenya proposes that the COP limit itself to discussion of the application of INTERPOL to have observer status in the COP arena, and given the past history of discussion of this application, and the outcome of the meeting of INTERPOL with the Bureau and the recommendations of the Secretariat and the Bureau to the COP, it is clear that INTERPOL has a working relationship with the tobacco industry which is deemed contradictory to the principals of the WHO FCTC, in particular Article 5.3, and the African Region proposes that this matter be brought to a conclusion in the COP discussions and that it should reject this application and should not discuss the application of INTERPOL for observer status in the Meeting of the Parties, as this is a different body and may seem as if the COP is endorsing its application to the Meeting of the Parties, so the African Region proposes that this application be rejected at this point and this discussion be closed, and await the Meeting of the Parties. If INTERPOL is interested in applying for observer status to the Meeting of the Parties, it should wait until then and then apply, submit the application for observer status, and let the Meeting of the Parties discuss it at that point. So the COP should restrict itself only to the application of observer status to the COP. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you Kenya. Maldives followed by Oman

Dr MOHAMED (Maldives):

Thank you, Chair. I take the stand on behalf of the countries of the South-East Asia Region. Mr Chair, countries of the South-East Asia Region appreciate and recognize the important collaborative work INTERPOL has been undertaking as an international organization, especially in the area of combating illicit trade and crime. We also understand and are looking forward to the very constructive role the organization can play in the future in accelerating the implementation of the provisions of the WHO FCTC. However, considering the information provided in the report, as the clarification presented by INTERPOL, we are of the view, with clear conviction, that INTERPOL's current association with the tobacco industry is in direct conflict with the interests of the WHO FCTC. Therefore, our Region strongly opposes granting observer status currently and we further recommend to the COP that in time, when INTERPOL ceases its association with the tobacco industry and when the Parties are assured that they have no more association with the industry, we would be happy to grant them observer status, thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Oman, followed by Pakistan.

Dr AL-LAWATI (Oman):

شكراً سيدي الرئيس. أحب أن أنوه أنني أتحدث بالنيابة عن دول إقليم شرق المتوسط. نود الإشارة إلى الدور الإيجابي لمنظمة الإنتربول في مكافحة الجريمة حول العالم وخصوصاً دورها المتوقع في المساعدة في تقليل عدد دخول بروتوكول القضاء إلا أن دول إقليم شرق المتوسط ترى أن الإندرتربول لم على الإتجار غير المشروع بالمنتجات التبغية. يقدم إطلاقاً في الوثيقة التي عرضتها الأمانة ما يفيد أنه لن يتلقى في المساعدة في أي دعم مالي أو تقني مما يعترض ذلك أنه انتهاكاً صارخاً لمادة 3.5. وعليه، ترى دول الإقليم أن يتم رفض طلب الإندرتربول. نهم لن يتلقوا في المستقبل أي دعم تقني أو مالي من شركات التبغ. شكراً سيدي الرئيس حتى يقدموا ما يفيد بـ

The PRESIDENT:

Pakistan please.

Mr SHEIKH (Pakistan):

Thank you, Chair. We recognize the role INTERPOL is playing in combating crime the world over. But we feel that the application by INTERPOL for observer status is in conflict with Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC. Since Pakistan has been making hectic efforts in safeguarding its anti-tobacco policies from the tobacco industry, we would like to staunchly oppose this application by INTERPOL.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Pakistan. Panama, you have the floor

Dr ROA (Panama):

Buenos días, señor Presidente. Reconocemos la participación de la INTERPOL en el combate al comercio ilícito. Sin embargo, sus propias manifestaciones dejan claramente establecido que aceptarlos como observadores en esta conferencia es una violación al artículo 5.3. Por lo cual, estamos en contra de otorgarle el estatus de observador a la INTERPOL.

The PRESIDENT:

The next speaker is Costa Rica.

Dr AMADOR (Costa Rica):

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Al igual que mis antecesores, Costa Rica reconoce la importancia de la INTERPOL en la lucha del comercio ilícito del crimen organizado, pero también solicita que se rechace su solicitud como observador. Gracias.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you. No more interventions on this issue? So may I conclude on this issue? From the many interventions on the floor may I take it that the COP does not wish to grant observer status to INTERPOL? That is my summary of our conclusion. Is it acceptable? If there are no objections, it is so decided. This concludes our consideration of agenda item 2.

10. PARTICIPATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN THE SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

The PRESIDENT:

As we decided earlier this morning we shall now turn to agenda item 6.7 on the participation of members of the public in the sessions of the COP and subsidiary bodies. The document in front of us is FCTC/COP/6/27, which contains proposals for facilitating decision-making on this matter. The proposals also take account of the concern expressed by a number of Parties that there should be provisions to allow a number of members of the public to attend COP sessions and its subsidiary bodies. We also have for our consideration a draft decision, proposed by Australia, contained in document COP/6/P/Conf.Paper No2. I would now like to open the floor for comment. Firstly I would like to give the floor to Australia to introduce its draft decision. Australia, you have the floor.

Ms HEYWARD (Australia):

Thank you, Mr President. Honourable ministers, distinguished delegates, colleagues. You have before you the draft decision proposed by Australia on agenda item 6.7. This was circulated to Parties through the Bureau members and regional coordinators two weeks ago, for consideration alongside the paper prepared by the Convention Secretariat, and was distributed this morning in the six official languages. It is based on proposals widely consulted through the Bureau during the intersessional period. Colleagues, as indicated at COP5, Australia requested this agenda item for COP6, so that the COP could avoid continued ad hoc decision-making regarding attendance of members of the public at meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies. You will recall that at COP5 and some sessions of the INB on the protocol of illicit trade and tobacco products, valuable working time was taken up with consideration of whether to exclude the public from meetings. The decisions to exclude the public were prompted by concern at large numbers of tobacco industry representatives among public attendees, but had the effect of also excluding academics, students, and other members of civil society.

In the interests of transparency and consistency, and in conformity with Article 5.3 of the Convention, as specifically required by Rules 32 and 27 of the Rules of Procedure, for meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies, respectively, document FCTC/COP/6/27 proposes screening procedures to exclude only those affiliated with the tobacco industry, while allowing access to other members of the public to observe the work of the COP and its subsidiary bodies. Operative paragraph 1 of our proposed decision would request the Secretariat to adopt these procedures from COP7 onwards.

Because the new procedures will require public access applications to be submitted to the Secretariat in advance, they do not resolve the matter of attendance by the public at this sixth session of the COP; operative paragraph 2 of our draft decision addresses this issue. As an interim measure for this week, it would allow members of the public to continue to observe the remainder of the session, subject to a written declaration affirming that they are not affiliated with the tobacco industry. The proposed declaration prepared by the Secretariat is annexed to the draft decision. Public attendees would be requested to sign it along with the standard registration form they must complete each morning to obtain a public access badge.

Distinguished delegates, Australia considers this draft decision a balanced solution which upholds the principal of transparency in decision-making, while addressing concerns regarding influence by tobacco industry interests. It will avoid further ad hoc decisions by the COP and assure predictability and consistency on this matter.

Mr President, if you will allow me one final note, delegates will be aware that document FCTC/COP/6/27 also contains a proposal to amend the Rules of Procedure, to allow the COP and subsidiary bodies to hold, where appropriate, open meetings, which would include states, non-Parties and accredited intergovernmental and nongovernmental observers, but not members of the public. The document indicates that the COP may wish to consider this proposal under agenda item 6.8 on possible amendments to the Rules on Procedure of the COP, under which document FCTC/COP/6/28

contains the suggested amendments, that Australia supports this proposal for consideration in Committee B. Thank you, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Australia. Now I would like to open the floor for comments on the proposal of Australia. Brazil, you have the floor.

Ms CAVALCANTE (Brazil):

Gracias, Mr Chair. Brasil está hablando en nombre de la Región de las Américas. La Región de las Américas, en sucesión de la mañana, analizó el punto 6.7 de la orden del día referido a la participación del público en la sesión y acordó que, dada la complejidad del tema, el documento FCTC/COP/6/27 debe ser estudiado en las sesiones del Comité B. Adicionalmente, propone a la Conferencia que, como ha sido práctica habitual en anteriores conferencias y órganos subsidiarios, someta a la consideración del plenario que la exclusión del público se haga desde este momento y hasta que se adopte otra decisión. Gracias.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Brazil. Kenya followed by Costa Rica. Kenya you have the floor.

Ms KIPTUI (Kenya):

Thank you, Mr President. Kenya supports the proposal by Australia and proposes that the definition of affiliation be expanded to accommodate in-kind relations with the tobacco industry and Kenya is willing to work with Australia to expand this definition so that it covers non-financial ties with the tobacco industry. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Kenya. Costa Rica, followed by Djibouti.

Dr CASTRO-CÓRDOBA (Costa Rica):

Gracias señor Presidente. Como lo manifestamos en la reunión de la mañana del grupo AMRO, Costa Rica apoya la propuesta hecha por Australia, en el sentido de que se incorpore esta modificación desde este momento. Perderíamos valiosos momentos y discusiones importantes que no es correcto que a través de mecanismos utilizados en el pasado la industria esté representada dentro de la sesión. De tal suerte que nosotros lo mencionamos en el grupo AMRO, nos apartamos de la posición del grupo y apoyamos la posición de Australia. Gracias.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Djibouti followed by Thailand.

Ms ALI-HIGO (Djibouti):

Merci Monsieur le Président.

Djibouti s'associe à tous les précédents intervenants : nous soutenons donc la proposition de l'Australie et, surtout, nous demandons à ce que cela soit mis en œuvre dès cette séance. En effet, nous venons de découvrir des publicités de l'industrie du tabac sur les tables du Hall, et il nous paraît donc important que cela devienne exécutoire dès à présent. Merci.

The PRESIDENT:

Thailand, you have the floor.

Professor VATHESATOGKIT (Thailand):

Thank you, Chair. Thailand strongly supports the proposal by Australia. In the second annex, the declaration, and I read: "I declare that I and/or the organization(s) which I am representing am/is not affiliated with the tobacco industry". Thailand would suggest some wording there, to the effect that other affiliations and front groups be covered so as to be complete and not leave any room for argument.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Thailand. Nigeria, followed by Uganda.

Dr USORO (Nigeria):

Thank you very much, Mr President. Actually we have a slightly different perspective on this. We support Australia's position. We also feel that opening up to the public enables them to be familiar with the anti-tobacco efforts. I think we will win more converts in the anti-tobacco war by actually allowing most members of the public to participate in the programme, actually not participate; they are actually observers, and listen to us. I think they'll benefit more from this effort rather than keeping them away completely in the dark. So I think it is something to encourage them to do through the internet or maybe media, live media, and they could be on the balconies watching us. I think it is useful for us and for our effort. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Nigeria. Uganda, followed by the Federated States of Micronesia.

Dr NDYANABANGI (Uganda):

Thank you very much, Mr President. Uganda supports the proposal by Australia and would like to stress in fact that the public should not continue participating in this session. We know from our history how members of delegations could not contribute because of big tobacco being among the public, and we should not underestimate the power of the tobacco industry, especially at a political level, that we may have some delegations who may not be able to express their opinions because of the tobacco control efforts back in their capitals. So because of the history, especially during the negotiations of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, what we saw and why we came to the decisions at previous COPs to send away the public, I think until we have amended the Rules of Procedure and we are very clear that the methods of screening are thorough, we should not allow members of the public to continue attending the present session, because we may as well have members of the tobacco industry within the public and they will hinder the discussions of the meetings of this COP. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you Uganda. Micronesia, followed by Oman.

Mr SAMO (Federated States of Micronesia):

Morning and thank you, Chairperson. Micronesia in the spirit of transparency and building allies in the fight against tobacco, we also support the proposal from Australia, thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Oman followed by Maldives. Oman you have the floor.

Dr AL-LAWATI (Oman):

على ان يوقفوا اذلاله بتارقف قدع اميف 27 COPS شكراً سيدي الرئيس. أنا لذي استفسار قانوني، ربما، الوثيقة
مقترح أسد ترال يا الم بدني، ف إن معناه أي ضا أنه سد تتم الموافقة على تغيير النظام الداخلي لمؤتمر
أو ضحت كينيا، على ما أع تقد الأطراف، أم أن النقاش هو فقط حضور الجمهور لجلسات هذا المؤتمر؟ مثلاً
أنه يجب النظر إلى الفقرات المقترحة من أسد ترال بإدقة شديدة بل اعتماده من قبل مؤتمر الأطراف. لذي
فقط هذا الاسد تفسار، إذا كان من الممكن لمسد تشار القادوني أن يوضحه لنا. شكراً.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you. May I invite the representative of the WHO Office of the Legal Counsel to speak?

Mr SOLOMON (WHO Office of the Legal Counsel):

Thank you Mr President and I thank the delegation of Oman for their question, which was if the Australian decision is adopted, would it mean adoption of the whole of the proposals in document 27.

I think it is important to clarify there are really three things being discussed now, and actually a fourth thing. The first thing that is being proposed, and is in document 27, is a screening process for the public for future sessions of the COP. So starting with COP7, there would be a screening process that is proposed in document 27. Document 27 also proposes, separately, an amendment to the Rules of Procedure to create a new meeting called an "open meeting", which would exclude members of the public but allow observers, that's the second thing being discussed. The third thing being discussed is what is found in operative paragraph 2 of the Australian proposal, and that would be a mechanism for this session of the COP only: a mechanism to have members of the public declare whether or not they are affiliated to the industry; if they were affiliated to the industry then they would not be issued a badge on a day-by-day basis for this session of the COP. But as Australia pointed out, that would be an interim measure. So that's the third thing being discussed. The fourth thing being discussed is a proposal to adopt a decision that was taken in COP5 and at the intergovernmental negotiating bodies for the Protocol, which would be to exclude members of the public on an ad hoc basis until a decision on this matter is reached. So just for purposes of clarification, I thought it would be useful to set this out.

If the proposed decision by Australia is adopted, only two things would happen. The screening process proposed in document 27 would be considered approved, not the Rule of Procedure on "open"; and the interim mechanism for this COP to ask members of the public to declare their affiliation would be approved. It is possible to separate those two elements in the Australian decision, that is to say, the COP could adopt just the aspect of the Australian decision which involved requiring members of the public to declare whether or not they were affiliated, and defer the issue on screening and the issue on open sessions to Committee B. So that's another possibility if it would address some of the concerns that were raised in connection with the proposal to close this meeting to the public. That is to say the concerns about the members of the public having affiliation with the tobacco industry. I hope that's clear, that there are two key elements in the Australian proposal, what they are, and the fact that they could be separated. Thank you, Chair.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Legal Counsel. He proposed this issue by two steps, the interim process and the screening process in the future. So I think his clarification will be very helpful to us in discussion of this item. I have a long list of interventions. Maldives, Madagascar, Russian Federation, Côte d'Ivoire, Panama, Mali and Ecuador. Maldives, you have the floor.

Dr MOHAMED (Maldives):

Thank you Chair. We would like to appreciate the efforts being made by Australia and Australia being a country fighting head on with industry interference. We understand the spirit of the draft decision. However, looking at the substance of the decision, as well as the very clear explanation of it by the Legal Counsel, we are of the view that it would be better for us to defer this decision until we have gone through document 27 in full as well as document 28 and we come to an agreement on the issue of a permanent solution to this issue by agreeing to changes in the Rules of Procedure.

If we take this decision now, we may not have the opportunity when we discuss this later. And therefore our proposal would be as we have done in previous sessions, until we agree on the Rules of Procedure a decision is made to not prematurely allow the public to attend the meeting. So that interim mechanism is not to be considered now, thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Madagascar, you have the floor.

Dr ANDRIANOMENJANAHARINIRINA (Madagascar):

Merci Monsieur le Président de m'avoir donné la parole.

Madagascar félicite le Bureau et le Secrétariat de la Convention pour leurs propositions réfléchies sur la question de savoir comment façon de protéger au mieux le processus de décision de la Convention-cadre sur l'ingérence de l'industrie du tabac.

Nous pensons que la proposition concilie la volonté de transparence et la nécessité de protéger l'intégrité des décisions de la Conférence des Parties. Ainsi, si elle est approuvée, le besoin de savoir s'il faut autoriser le public à assister à telle réunion se fera moins sentir. Merci.

The PRESIDENT:

Russian Federation, followed by Côte d'Ivoire,

Ms KOSTENKO (Russian Federation):

Российская Федерация хотела бы также поблагодарить Австралию за усилия, направленные на борьбу против табака и за обеспечение процесса транспарентности. Вместе с тем, мы хотели бы тоже поддержать предложение Австралии и хотели бы подчеркнуть, что общественность непосредственно должна принимать участие в Конференции Сторон, вместе с тем, они ни в коем случае не должны быть связаны с табачной промышленностью. Но мы также считаем целесообразным поддержать предложение делегации Мали не рассматривать данный вопрос, пока мы не согласуем правила процедуры сторон. Спасибо.

The PRESIDENT:

Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr BEDOU (Côte d'Ivoire)

Merci Monsieur le Président.

À la suite des autres pays, je voudrais déjà préciser que, effectivement, nous savons à quel point les industriels du tabac sont engagés dans cette lutte, et même cette contre-lutte puisque c'est nous qui luttons contre le tabac. Mais ils contre-attaquent toujours, et il est à la fois important et difficile de demander une participation publique. Car si nous n'arrivons pas à établir des mécanismes vraiment appropriés pour pouvoir identifier, dans ce public particulier, quels sont ceux qui soutiennent l'industrie du tabac, cela sera difficile. Je rejoins donc le Mali, et souhaite qu'on nous accorde le temps

nécessaire pour pouvoir analyser la proposition de l'Australie. Nous ne la rejetons pas et la soutenons, mais il nous faut trouver le bon mécanisme pour établir l'absence d'affiliation du public à l'industrie du tabac, sur la base d'éléments fiables. Je vous remercie.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Panama.

Dr ROA (Panama):

Gracias, señor Presidente. Realmente, tenemos un interrogante. Estamos de acuerdo en que la transparencia es fundamental, pero una vez que en el día de mañana los miembros expresen su conformidad o su declaración de que no son parte de la industria de sus subsidiarias, ¿tenemos previsto algún mecanismo de verificación de esas declaraciones? Porque realmente uno de los elementos que ha caracterizado a la industria tabacalera es precisamente es la falta de transparencia. ¿Qué nos dice en esta sala que las declaraciones van a ser realmente válidas? Entonces, quisiera saber si tenemos previsto por parte de la Secretaría algún mecanismo sobre este punto.

The PRESIDENT:

May I invite the Secretariat to respond.

Dr DA COSTA E SILVA (Head, Convention Secretariat):

Thank you very much. We have the registration forms and we can do a certain additional search, but of course we will not be 100% on ensuring that the screening process is accurate enough to fully ban the tobacco industry participation. So even because this is a sort of ongoing process, we will probably need to adapt ourselves to a new scenario, where we will have a provisional mechanism to screen and we will then just look for the possibility of establishing a better mechanism that provides accurate information provided by the public who registers to participate in the session. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Mali, followed by Ecuador.

Mr MOHAMEDOUN (Mali):

Merci Monsieur le Président. Je tenais à saluer le principe du filtrage du public, et n'ai aucune objection à ce sujet. Cependant, comme le Panama, je me demande si nous disposons d'un mécanisme qui nous permette de vérifier l'intégrité de chaque personne qui assiste aux travaux, qu'il ne s'agisse pas d'une personne affiliée à l'industrie du tabac venue avec le public pour une séance. Voilà ma principale préoccupation. Merci Monsieur le Président.

The PRESIDENT:

Timor-Leste.

Dr SEIXAS DOS SANTOS (Timor-Leste):

Thank you, Mr President. Timor-Leste fully supports the draft decision proposed by Australia, because we are aware that this document will support the Secretariat to define the mechanism and the whole procedure to screen the members of the public, and also contribute to avoid the conflict of interests. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Ecuador.

Dr ACURIO (Ecuador):

Gracias, señor Presidente. Las consecuencias de un debate sobre la participación del público y la transparencia son enormemente importantes. Nosotros saludamos la propuesta de Australia en el sentido de abrir una discusión al respecto, pero nos parece que no es pertinente tomar una decisión sin el debate suficiente previsto en la Comisión B. Por lo tanto, Ecuador ratifica la necesidad de que se haga ese debate en la Comisión B y hasta que se tenga una decisión al respecto esta plenaria mantenga la práctica que se ha tenido hasta ahora de evitar la presencia del público en los debates de la 6.^a sesión. Primero, porque eso genera un precedente innecesario en el sentido de asumir decisiones temporales sin que hayamos tenido la suficiente discusión y segundo, porque la sola declaratoria individual llenada en el formulario no supone una garantía de que no haya conflictos de interés entre el público y la industria tabacalera. Por lo tanto, creemos que en este momento se debe mantener la decisión de la no participación del público hasta que se tenga una decisión posterior al debate en la Comisión B.

The PRESIDENT:

European Union, followed by India.

Dr GHEBREIBZABIHER (Italy):

Thank you, Chair. I speak on behalf of the European Union and its member States. The proposal made by Brazil, Ecuador and explained just now by the legal office is very reasonable and we support it. We need to make a decision now. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Uruguay.

Dr ASQUETA SOÑORA (Uruguay):

Gracias, señor Presidente. Vamos a ser muy breves, le íbamos a pedir a la mesa que le ceda nuevamente lo que había propuesto Brasil en nombre de la Región de las Américas. Ha sido apoyado por Panamá, Ecuador y la reciente intervención de la Unión Europea nos llama a la complacencia en cuanto a que se debe excluir al público desde ahora, se debe apoyar a Australia en cuanto al estudio en profundidad del documento que ha sido presentado y ratificar una vez más que el solo llenado de un formulario no nos brinda mecanismos de garantía para poder certificar que el participante o la institución que ha llenado ese formulario sea o no, o esté ligado o no a la industria tabacalera y como mecanismo de no regresión recordemos que ha sido adoptado en las últimas reuniones de la conferencia de las partes y el órgano de negociación intergubernamental para el protocolo como es ilícita esta decisión y no debemos regresar en esa medida. Así que el público debe excluirse desde ahora. Gracias.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Brazil followed by Australia.

Mr CUENCA (Brazil):

Señor Presidente, muchas gracias. Brasil habla ahora en su capacidad nacional, pero en línea con lo que ya ha expresado en representación de la Región de las Américas y nos gustaría apoyar la

intervención reciente de Uruguay y la anterior de Ecuador. Nuestra visión es que la primera parte de la decisión de Australia ya tiene implicaciones para todas las futuras reuniones de la COP y los órganos subsidiarios. Es un tema que está tratado de manera más completa y sistemática en el documento 27 en el punto 6.7 de la agenda. Hay varias propuestas que están sobre la mesa, como lo dijo el asesor legal y nos gustaría poder discutir en profundidad las diversas propuestas individualmente y en su relación una con la otra en el Comité B.

Entonces, realmente no nos gustaría que hubiera ahora una decisión sobre la primera parte del proyecto de Australia y creo que hay elementos para creer que el método propuesto para a partir de mañana de que sean presentados formularios del público en general con informaciones sobre sus vinculaciones con institucionales quizás no sea un método que permita un screening tan adecuado. Entonces, quizás nuestra idea, en línea con la región, es que en esta COP se mantenga la práctica de las COP anteriores con la exclusión del público en general de la sesión y así tengamos en el Comité B la oportunidad de debatir las reglas para las próximas COP que puedan lidiar de manera adecuada con el tema de la participación del público. Muchas gracias.

The PRESIDENT:

Australia, you have the floor.

HEYWARD (Australia):

Thank you, Mr President and thank you to all the colleagues for your very constructive comments and suggestions.

First, by way of clarification, as we stated the basis for this proposal was that we prefer to avoid another ad hoc decision. In fact, as colleagues will recall, the last session of the COP was the first time that the COP decided to exclude the public and we had stated at that time that at the next session we would like to avoid an ad hoc decision and that is why we had proposed to consider it early and we proposed the interim measure, but we certainly understand the wish of colleagues to have a thorough decision about this issue. It is an important matter, and we are in your hands, Mr President. We would have been quite happy to propose just to adopt the second paragraph of our decision and deal only with this COP.

We think it is unfortunate to exclude members of the public from this session, we recognize that an interim measure perhaps has some limitations, indeed we can never be completely sure of who is in and who is out, but we do need to balance that against the interest of transparency, and so we look forward to a discussion on that in Committee B and to a solution for the future, thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Libya followed by Uganda.

Mr DAGANEE (Libya):

شكراً سيدي الرئيس. نظراً لأن مؤتمر الأطراف من واجبه اتخاذ كافة الإجراءات اللازمة لحماية الاتفاقية. فالمؤتمر هو مؤتمر الأطراف في الاتفاقية، والوصول إلى عضوية هذا المؤتمر جاءت بعد مصادقة وتوقيع. أما الجمهور، فكيف نقيدهم؟ لا نستدللنا بانه راضون بكل نحن، يكون لهم حق الحضور وهم أشخاص مجهولون. الحقيقة هي وثيقة التفويض. من الصعب جداً في الحقيقة معرفة من هم الأشخاص الموجودون، فالأشخاص الموجودون في الجمهور إما أن يكونوا جاءوا هنا لهذا الملتقى أو هذا المؤتمر لمصلحة الاتفاقية أولاً لعمل ضده. لأن، فأنا مع استبعاد الجمهور مباشرة الآن في هذه الجلسة ثم النظر في الترتيبات وفقاً للمقترح وبما أن ذلك ليس من الممكن. وشكراً الأستراي في جلسة اللجنة ب.

The PRESIDENT:

South Africa, you have the floor, followed by Uganda.

Ms MATSAU (South Africa):

Thank you, Mr President. South Africa takes the floor maybe to reflect a little bit on the last COP and the decisions that were taken there, and Australia is quite right. At this point I would like to thank Australia for providing the options that we can discuss to come to a final conclusion. I think all we would need to say is that, while Australia has provided good options, maybe they're too late for this COP, even though the intention was to make sure that we don't come to an ad hoc decision as we did in the last COP. But the options that have been presented are such that unless we discuss them before we even start on the meeting and come to an agreement, otherwise we are faced with the possibility of allowing the public to come in, while waiting for the final outcomes of those discussions. South Africa would therefore humbly propose that we follow what we have done, and take the safest route for now. While we are getting ready to discuss the options, the safe route is to take the decision to keep out the public, because the options that are on the table, none of them provides any guarantees about the effectiveness of the screening. So we would humbly propose that we do what we have always done, keep out the public totally, and then discuss and for the next COP have a proposal on the table that will allow us to make a decision on how to treat the public. But for now we propose that the public must be kept out because there's no way of knowing who is affiliated or who is in a working relationship with the tobacco industry.

The PRESIDENT:

Uganda, followed by India.

Mr ALINDA KIMOOMI (Uganda):

Thank you so much, Mr President. The Secretariat has confirmed that the screening process of the public to determine a relation to the tobacco industry is not fool proof, and well aware that the tobacco industry has in the past used the public camouflaged as the public, well aware that the public may not actually add a lot of value to the debate, I think it is better to close them out. There are a few questions that we need to ask. These members of the public, the so-called "public", who is funding their participation here? If not the tobacco industry, because governments fund their delegations as Parties, and of course we have organizations which have been accorded observer status, so who is this public? That is the question that we need to ask. So there's no reason to try to be transparent when the tobacco industry has actually demonstrated that they are the most untransparent, not transparent, in the name of letting in the public. And so I propose that these members of the public be kept out. If they want to participate, let them organize themselves, we know who they are, apply for observer status, and on that note, I would like to support and endorse the proposal of South Africa. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, we have spent much time on this issue. I have a list of speakers on the table. India, Oman, Guinea and Swaziland, in addition to Burkina Faso. May I conclude by advocating short interventions from these Parties? The next speaker is India.

Mr MISHRA (India):

Thank you, Chair. Of the two proposals that are before us, the first one really needs no discussion here because that's for the future participation and that participation in any case is going to be determined by what is discussed in Committee B under 6.7. The only issue that we are concerned with right now in this meeting is on the second part, which is the participation of the public in the present session. The overwhelming view seems to be that we may not be able to have a proper verification. For those who are opposed I wonder if ever we will be able to put in place a verification system which will be so fool proof that we can find out who is sponsoring whom. Given the situation that we need to take a route which is the best possible route of verification and knowing who is here,

we need to take a view in the present session that if we can go along with the Australian proposal to verify and let people in, and let a larger debate take place in Committee B and come to a final conclusion, thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you for your comment. Oman, followed by Guinea.

Mr GHAWAS ALKHATHIRI (Oman):

شكرا للرئيس. عُمان تؤيد مقترح ليبيا وجنوب أفريقيا وأوغندا ونطلب العمل به فهو الأنسب. هذا جانب، الجانب الآخر لا نرى الجمهور وسدعت بركونهم أف رادا مجهولاً بين، كذلك فإن المؤتمر مرأتى ل ل قضاء أو الحد جدوى مشاركة أو حضور من التبغ. يعنى ربما يسمى بال قادن، يعنى ممكن ن صير خصوم، يعنى المؤتمر مرأتى من أجل الحد أو القضاء على التبغ. حضور الجمهور، يعنى أو المزارعين ل ل تبغ، يعنى ماذا سد يقدموا إن حضروا إلى هذا مؤتمر. هلى سد نك تفي أن نك تب على السجارة ضارة بال صحة. أف صدلن ي قدموا جديد. صديح أنهم ال ي سوقوا ب ضاعة أمن أجل بزنس ولا كن نحن نريد أن ن سوق ال صحة العامة فهى الأهم. نريد دال د فافظ على ال صحة وعلى المال، فال د فافظ على المال ي خدم ال صحة العامة ضروري جدا، وشكرا

Ms BEAVAGUI (Guinea):

Merci Monsieur le Président de m'avoir donné la parole. Pour notre part, nous appuyons la proposition de l'Australie. De ce fait, pendant les travaux de la commission B, il faudra réfléchir à un mécanisme de contrôle adéquat et le mettre en place pour empêcher toute participation affiliée à l'industrie du tabac. Je vous remercie.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Swaziland followed by finally Burkina Faso.

Mr DLAMINI (Swaziland):

Thank you Chair and good morning to colleagues. I'm not going to start off by complaining, Chair, that I've raised my flag a number of times but was not recognized, but I'm happy that I have the floor now. I will start off by congratulating our colleagues from Australia for coming up with this draft decision. Chair, the subject before you is a very difficult decision that you need to deal with as a COP. The issue here is about how do we maintain transparency, whilst at the same time ensuring that there is some level of security from interference from the tobacco industry. We all know that the tobacco industry comes in different forms, shapes and sizes. They are sometimes members of the public, sometimes part of the delegations. How do we then as a Conference ensure that there is this level of transparency and security of our meetings? My sense is that we need to make a decision taking into account the fact that what Australia is proposing will most probably help us in the future. A decision has to be taken as to what happens now. Do we go along with the proposed screening, which will definitely, in so far as I'm concerned, maybe try to address the issue, but not holistically? As I say, when you look at the tactics that the industry has come up with, it is so amazing you know. My proposal will be that let's deal with the issue in Committee B and at least for now ensure that a decision is taken that we exclude members of the public from participating. Thank you, Chair.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Burkina Faso is the final speaker on this issue.

Mr DABRE (Burkina Faso):

Je vais surtout me prononcer sur la participation du public à la présente session.

Je tiens d'abord à faire souligner le contexte : nous assistons actuellement à une offensive généralisée de l'industrie du tabac sur les politiques impliqués dans nos différents pays.

La région ouest-africaine, par exemple, subit un assaut assez marqué. Nos administrations et nos organisations régionales ont été souvent interpellées et abordées par l'industrie du tabac. Il apparaît donc clairement que celle-ci ne va pas rester les bras croisés, et va certainement tenter d'introduire ou de préparer un certain nombre de personnes pour s'informer de nos travaux. Il me semble que c'est une question cruciale dans ce contexte d'offensive généralisée.

En ce qui concerne les questions à régler en commission, nous souhaitons soumettre l'idée suivante : de par leurs actions à l'échelle régionale voire internationale, certaines personnes font référence dans la lutte contre le tabac. La déclaration d'intention ne pouvant pas être considérée comme un critère pertinent, ces personnes reconnues pourraient participer à certaines de nos réunions.

En résumé, la question cruciale reste l'offensive de l'industrie du tabac, notamment auprès de nos représentants, et donc la nécessité de limiter les possibilités d'influence des délégués de nos pays. Merci.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you. We have had a very intense discussion on this issue. From the many interventions up until now, I see there has been no consensus on the proposal of Australia, excluding the spirit of public attendance. The issue has been discussed very intensively. So if you allow me, I would like to conclude this matter because we have a heavy agenda in front of us, so my proposal is that the COP wishes to refer agenda item 6.7 to Committee B for a more productive and more constructive review. Also the COP would like to exclude all members of the public from the meeting during this COP. Are my proposals agreeable? There is no objection, so it is so decided.

11. ADDRESS BY THE HEAD OF THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT AND REPORT ON GLOBAL PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHO FCTC, FOLLOWED BY A GENERAL DEBATE

The PRESIDENT:

Now we shall proceed with item 3, addressed by the Head of Convention Secretariat: "report on global progress on implementation of WHO FCTC"; document FCTC/COP/6/5 contains the report on global progress in implementation of Convention based on Parties' reports. The presentation on this item will be followed by general debate, but due to the time limitations this morning, I would like to close the morning session after the presentation from Dr Vera da Costa e Silva. I would like to invite Dr da Costa e Silva, the Head of Convention Secretariat, to address the Conference, and to present the key findings on the report on global implementation of the Convention. Dr da Costa e Silva, you have the floor.

Dr DA COSTA E SILVA (Head, Convention Secretariat):

President of the COP, Ministers, delegates, colleagues, friends, my family:

It is my distinct pleasure to be here with you today, at the sixth session of the COP, and my first session as Head of the Convention Secretariat. It has been almost four months since I began my tenure – busy days, culminating in being here. Your support and encouragement in these last months have been invaluable. Thank you.

I would like to extend particular thanks to the Government of the Russian Federation for hosting COP6 and for being an example of a Party to the treaty that, by implementing its provisions, makes the difference for the health of its people. Their cooperation and collaboration with the Convention Secretariat in planning and organizing this session have been exemplary.

In the next few minutes, I have the opportunity to report on Convention Secretariat activities and progress made in the past biennium. However, before I begin, I wish to extend my thanks to my predecessor and colleague, Haik Nikogosian, for his dedicated work as the Head of the Convention

Secretariat for the last seven years. His leadership brought us through the negotiations of the Convention's first protocol, among other successes, and I would like to offer him my own personal thanks as well as the thanks of us all. Thank you Haik.

(Applause)

The last two years have seen some notable achievements.

The Convention Secretariat has conducted 16 needs assessments, working closely with Party governments to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges in implementation of the WHO FCTC. Now, we have the information we need to start closing the gaps and to learn from best practices. Thank you to Parties and donors who made this exercise possible.

As you will recall, COP5 established an open-ended intersessional drafting group to continue the work of developing guidelines for implementation of Article 6, and to present a complete draft for consideration at COP6. These guidelines are before you now. They are evidence-based and provide robust guidance for implementing this key provision.

We received reports from 130 Parties in the 2014 reporting cycle. They show that measurable improvements have been achieved in a number of areas of implementation, not least in relation to Article 5.3. In the last two years, some Parties have included provisions protecting public health policy-making from tobacco industry interference as part of comprehensive tobacco control legislation. Others are planning to do the same. Nevertheless, while the reports currently provide useful data, because reporting on country-level work on the WHO FCTC is a critical part of successful implementation, we constantly strive to improve this process. In this regard, provisions establishing a mechanism to facilitate review of Parties reports are on the agenda for your consideration and action.

The Convention Secretariat also convened two meetings of Party-nominated experts to consider Article 19 on liability. Their report is before you for consideration. It seems clear that this is an area that needs further exploration and consideration, as it holds the potential to be a key aspect of our work.

I am particularly happy to report to you that we now have four Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products: Nicaragua, Uruguay, Gabon and – just last week – Mongolia. This is 10% of what is needed for the Protocol to enter into force. I am making it one of the chief priorities of the Convention Secretariat to see the entry into force of the Protocol before COP7. We will be focused on raising awareness in all sectors of governments. We will also provide technical support to WHO FCTC Parties to ratify, accept, approve, formally confirm or accede to the Protocol so that we can reach our 40 Parties goal. We cannot lose momentum – a Protocol that hasn't entered into force is simply an impressive document. We need to transform it into binding law, to give Parties the tools they need to bring illicit trade to a halt.

As you will recall, in 2013 the World Health Assembly endorsed a global target of a 30% relative reduction in prevalence of current tobacco use in persons 15 years and older by 2025. The WHO FCTC is the key to achieving this – in other words, we will not reach this ambitious and critical target without concerted effort by all Parties to fully implement the Convention. Working with WHO at all of its levels to ensure this global public health success is another of the chief priorities of the Convention Secretariat in the coming years.

I want to echo the Director-General's strong reminder this morning. We have never seen the tobacco industry so focused on interfering with Parties' implementation of the Convention, requiring ever more vigilance on our part. They have become bolder in the last decade, interfering at the national and supranational levels, behind closed doors and in the open, which is a sign that the laws and policies being adopted are effective.

We have the tools we need to stop this kind of industry-driven meddling in government. Article 5.3 gives all Parties the legal mandate to protect their public health policy-making from tobacco industry interference.

While continuing to protect and grow their markets, the tobacco industry has also carefully and intentionally engaged in efforts to develop new products, including acquisition of electronic nicotine delivery system companies, bringing these products under the umbrella of their control. As a product of the tobacco industry, the future potential of electronic nicotine delivery system in tobacco control

risks being tainted, bringing to mind past industry questionable solutions like filters and low tar tobacco. Evidence is just emerging to assist us in making informed, evidence-based decisions on where electronic nicotine delivery systems will fit in. And we have no reason to think that electronic nicotine delivery systems are the last of the line. Novel and emerging products are likely to continue to appear. In this vein, you will also consider reports on smokeless tobacco and water pipe usage.

Coming from a tobacco growing country, I can testify as to how the industry misinforms and uses farmers to justify their attacks against sound tobacco control measures. This industry tactic creates additional layers of complexity for Parties implementing demand-reduction provisions and, additionally, in developing strategies that support the identification of alternative livelihoods and measures to protect the environment. Tobacco farmers are the most vulnerable members of the tobacco chain, often experiencing health harms from their work with raw tobacco and economic hardships from unfair employment arrangements. To protect them, it is essential that the agricultural, agrarian development and labour sectors be protagonists in any comprehensive tobacco control programme. Policy options and recommendations for Articles 17 and 18 are also submitted for the consideration of COP6.

As we move into the second decade of the WHO Framework Convention, I would like to ask that we all remember the most vulnerable populations. Due to industry targeting, social context and simple life circumstances, women, children and the poor are the most likely to suffer from the impact of tobacco-related diseases. We have long known that tobacco control is a necessary part of strong development. To protect the most vulnerable and promote sustainable changes, we need to reach across sectors, working in a whole-of-government, health-in-all policies approach to reduce the health and social burdens related to tobacco use.

This is an exciting, if complex, time in global public health. There are many competing priorities, but I am strongly encouraged by recent announcements of “tobacco end games” from high profile champions, particularly those from countries where the tobacco epidemic is declining. We have some Parties who are giving life to our often repeated mantra of the WHO FCTC being a floor, not a ceiling – they push their policies to the highest levels.

And at the same time, we are a community. Our successes are measured and define our willingness to make this kind of achievement possible for all Parties. Now is the time to increase WHO FCTC implementation cooperation of every kind, at every level, to enhance learning and opportunities.

However, these are also sobering times financially. We are all, whether in our households, our governments or our organizations, being asked to do more with less. To realistically reach our laudable, but also very ambitious goals with this treaty and its Protocol, partnership, coordination and collaboration must be the core operating values of the Convention Secretariat. I have spoken with our colleagues at all levels of WHO, and they stand ready to support our work, and invite us to support theirs. Together, we make a powerful team, with complementary skills and mandates.

As I close today, I want to take a moment to emphasize the inclusiveness of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. The Convention could not have been as successful as it has been, either in its negotiation or its implementation, if we had not been working hand-in-hand with our colleagues and partners. Civil society and our sister United Nations agencies are critical and principal members of the community that makes the treaty a success. The Convention Secretariat will be actively reaching out to enhance and increase our cooperation with all friends of the treaty.

I have been fortunate enough to have seen many of you, in preparation for this session. We have a full agenda, in matters of both substance and procedure. We know that COP days are long and ask a great deal of all of us, but they are also some of the most rewarding days of the biennium. I look forward to working with all of you this week. *Spasibo!*

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Dr Costa e Silva for your presentation and the overview of the activities of the Secretariat, and the global implementation of the Convention. Much progress has been made with the

commitment of all Parties; however we can also note that a number of challenges remain which still need to be discussed in more detail this week. I would like to suggest that we adjourn our meeting and continue later this morning with the general debate. Before we have the lunch break, let me announce that two lunch seminars are organized by NGO communities which will take place in parallel from 1.30 to 2.45. One seminar is to present reflections from civil society on agenda items of the COP; this seminar will take place in an Enisei Hall. The second seminar is about Article 6 of the Convention, and is organized by Brazil, the Philippines, and the Framework Convention Alliance. It will take place in Ladoga hall. I would like to encourage you to participate in these two events. Let me now adjourn the meeting for the lunch break and reconvene at 3 p.m. I wish you a good lunch, the meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much.

The meeting rose at 13:05

SECOND PLENARY MEETING

Monday, 13 October 2014, at 15:17

President: Professor C.J. Moon (Republic of Korea)

1. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT:

Distinguished delegates, may I ask you: be seated. We are ready to begin start the afternoon session. Good afternoon, I hope you all had a nice lunch. Before opening the general debate, please let me remind you that the COP decided to postpone the consideration of the officers of the two committees until we receive feedback from the regional groups. Thanks to your cooperation, the regional groups have informed the Bureau about their candidacies and I propose to finalize this matter before opening the general debate on agenda item three. Is this project acceptable? I see no objection, it is so decided.

The regional groups have concluded their discussions and informed me about their candidacies. Pursuant to rule 28.1 of the Rules of Procedure, the Bureau recommends that the following be elected as officers of the committees and then to expedite the work of the committees, the officers being elected now by the plenary. For Committee A, the proposal is Dr Vichit-Vadakan of Thailand as Chair, with Dr Acurio of Ecuador and Dr Valizadeh of Iran as Vice-Chairs. For committee B, it is recommended that Mr Andrew Black from the United Kingdom be Chair, with Dr Escartin of the Philippines and Dr Chilengwe of Zambia as Vice-Chairs. May I take it the Conference has no objection of proceeding on this basis and agrees with the proposals I just read? I see no objection, it is so decided and the officers of the committees are therefore elected. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

2. ADDRESS BY THE HEAD OF THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT AND REPORT ON GLOBAL PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHO FCTC, FOLLOWED BY A GENERAL DEBATE

The PRESIDENT:

I now would like to open the debate addressed by the Head of Convention Secretariat and a report that was presented to us this morning, and I would like to ask delegates wishing to speak on this item to please raise their nameplate. Before I open the floor, may I take this opportunity to propose, as was the practice at the last session, that there be a strict five minutes for individual Party statements, and a seven minute limit for the regional statements, and that speakers deliver statements from their seats. Distinguished delegates, please let me finish our general discussions this afternoon if possible so that Committee A and Committee B start their work from tomorrow morning – I'm seeing no objection, it is so agreed.

The following Parties have informed the Secretariat of their wish to speak: Sweden, the Philippines, Uruguay, China, Mexico, Australia, Azerbaijan, India, Republic of Korea. Sweden is the first. Sweden: you have the floor.

Ms HALEN (Sweden):

Thank you Mr. President. I'm speaking on behalf of the 51 Parties to the Framework Convention in the European Region. I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate you, Mr President, and the other members of the Bureau for all the work that you've done since the fifth COP in Seoul, two years ago. I wish to thank the Russian Federation for hosting the sixth COP, allowing us to meet and advance tobacco control, under the umbrella of the Framework Convention. On behalf of the European Region, I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Dr Haik Nikogosian, for his time in service as the Head of the FCTC Secretariat. We thank you for your effort and dedication in taking the framework Convention from its infancy to the central position it holds today in global public health. The European Region also wishes to congratulate the new Head of the Secretary, Dr Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva: we extend a warm welcome to you and look forward to working with you in the coming years. You can count on the European Region as a reliable and committed partner. We welcome the new Parties to the Framework Convention since COP5: Ethiopia, and from our own Region, Tajikistan, as well as the most recent Party, El Salvador. The number of Parties to the Convention now reaches 179 and it is still growing. We believe that this is a sign of continued global commitment to tobacco control, and of a Framework Convention that keeps its relevance.

Mr President, the 10th anniversary of the Convention provides us with an opportunity for reflexion. At this occasion, the European Region would like to convey the following four messages: in the coming years of tobacco control an ever stronger emphasis needs to be put on accelerating the implementation of the Framework Convention by Parties. We welcome that several articles in the Convention reach a fairly high implementation rate of 70-84% as shown in the global progress report on the implementation of the Convention. Nonetheless, the overall implementation is 54%. We call for Parties to be able to work together and share experiences in the implementation of comprehensive tobacco control strategies in the coming decade. Secondly, there are still many Parties that do not fulfil their reporting requirements in time. This, together with the gap between the budget and available resources, remains a significant concern to us. It hampers the timely implementation of the workplans. We call on Parties to the Convention to make their contributions, within the timeframe established by the COP. We believe that a healthy budget is a realistic budget that all Parties contribute to. Thirdly, we underscore the need for strong collaboration between the FCTC Secretariat and WHO. We believe this is key for an effective implementation of the Convention and for assistance to Parties. It secures the collective efforts of both organizations without overlapping the work. Lastly, COP5 saw the adoption of the Protocol on illicit trade. We regret that the first Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol could not be held as planned and we call on Parties in all regions, including our own, to work towards ratifying the protocol as soon as possible. Mr President, the European Region looks forward to a week of advancing the tobacco control agenda as laid down in the Framework Convention. We will work with other Parties and regions in order to achieve this and we are committed to contribute our best. Thank you for your attention.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much, Sweden. The next speaker is the Philippines.

Mr PADILLA (Philippines):

Mr President, ministers, distinguished delegates, distinguished representatives of observer Parties, the Philippines wish to convey a warm welcome to the new FCTC Secretariat, in the person of Vera da Costa e Silva, and to extend sincere appreciation to the Russian Government for hosting this conference. We would also like to express our appreciation to the working and expert groups that prepared the draft documents.

Mr President, the Philippines has made important achievements since COP5; in December 2012, the Government passed landmark legislation which increased cigarette taxes to at least double their

original amount. One year into implementation, the country already has significant increases in revenues, far exceeding the best of Government expectations. At the same time, we likewise witness significant decreases in smoking prevalence among the poorest and the youth. The law continues to increase up to 25% per year as well, until we reach a unitary tax in 2017.

An innovative feature of this law is that it has earmarked all its incremental revenues to health, particularly universal health-care coverage, health facilities' enhancement and attainment of the medium-term development goals. In this regard, the Philippines endorse the adoption of the Article 6 guidelines. The Philippines, likewise, now join the ranks of over 70 territories around the world, that require picture warnings on tobacco product packages; consistent with Article 11, our law requires over 50% of graphic warnings on both sides of the pack and against misleading descriptors. It is ironic that while we were already manufacturing cigarette packs with graphic health warnings for other countries, the industry fought us tooth and nail to delay implementation in our own country until now.

To counter further the tobacco influence, another landmark measure, the Joint Memorandum Circular between the Department of Health and the Civil Service Commission for the Protection of the Bureaucracy from Tobacco Industry Interference: the adoption of this measure, in accordance with Article 5.3 and the guidelines is a watershed moment. The groundbreaking policy made all Government officials administratively liable for interacting with the tobacco industry where it is not strictly necessary for regulations and for receiving partnerships and contributions from the tobacco industry and not following specific rules of engagement. To affirm this policy, various Government agencies further strengthened their own implementation in the respective areas. Premised on the supposition that the tobacco industry was incapable of "corporate social responsibility", one that was peculiar only to this commodity, we further strengthened or restricted only to enforce regulatory measures against the product. Indeed, the civil service's policy to prevent tobacco interference is the single most important measure that promoted multisectoral collaboration in line with Article 5.2 of the FCTC. With this we are applying the whole government approach, coordinated and linked with one another unlike previously where the left hand did not know what the right was doing.

The tobacco industry is such a huge empire operating in a globalized manner, the very reason we ourselves must likewise operate in a wholly universal approach if we are to make a meaningful stance against the deadliest of epidemics. This is to further stress the contribution of our new civil society partners in the country, testimony to Article 4.7 of the FCTC, whereby in order to have a successful implementation of the Framework Convention on tobacco control, civil society must be in partnership with government.

Mr President, the commitment of the Philippine Government is also demonstrated by its engagement with articles, with activities of the Secretariat and other working groups. The Philippines has been an active member of four working groups: on Article 6, on Articles 9 and 10, on Articles 17 and 18, and on sustainable measures for FCTC implementation. In this regard, while the Philippines support the recommendations of the working group on alternative means of livelihood, the Philippines is equally concerned with the plight of tobacco farmers who must be protected in accordance with our own national law. In conclusion, Mr President, our delegation congratulates all of the member Parties and the Secretariat for its work done so well, and we hope that the decision of this current COP can help us all accelerate implementation of the FCTC. Before I say thank you, Mr. President, I would like to personally thank Mr Haik Nikogosian for being my boss, prior to the ascension of the current Secretariat. Thank you, Mr President.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Philippines. May I now open to Uruguay?

Dr MUNIZ (Uruguay):

Gracias, señor Presidente. Quiero comenzar saludando y felicitando a la jefa del secretariado, la Sra. Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva y augurarle en nombre del gobierno uruguayo muchos éxitos en esta

nueva etapa que comienza, así como también agradecer al Dr Nikogosian por su labor y apoyo que mucho valoramos. Empezaré a continuación con algunas reflexiones que desde Uruguay queremos compartir con todos ustedes. El consumo de tabaco provoca 6 millones de muertes por año, generando mucho daño en la vida de las personas, en la de su familia y de su entorno, así como también genera un inmenso costo directo en los sistemas de salud y de la Seguridad Social de los países. En Uruguay somos conscientes del daño que provoca el tabaco y por lo tanto hemos decidido avanzar en la aplicación de las medidas contenidas en el Convenio Marco. Hemos aplicado casi la totalidad de las medidas como son el aumento de impuestos, ambientes libres de humo, advertencias sanitarias y hemos establecido una estrategia de cesación acompañada por campañas de información y sensibilización.

Además en Uruguay están prohibidos de forma total y absoluta la promoción, publicidad y patrocinio de los productos de tabaco, incluyendo la prohibición de exhibir el producto. Como ustedes saben, la industria ha adoptado varias medidas para interferir con las políticas de salud pública impulsadas por Uruguay. Una de esas medidas fue el cierre intempestivo y sin aviso previo de su fábrica en Uruguay. Como consecuencia directa de esta medida más de 40 trabajadores quedaron sin empleo de un día para otro. Varios de ellos fueron consiguiendo otros trabajos, pero desde el Ministerio de Salud Pública nos reunimos con quienes no pudieron conseguir otro empleo y los contratamos para trabajar en el Ministerio de Salud. Fue así como nació la Cooperativa 21 de Octubre que constituye una experiencia inédita de reconversión laboral, dentro de las recomendaciones establecidas en el Convenio Marco para el control del tabaco de la Organización Mundial de la Salud. Esta cooperativa está integrada por 8 extrabajadores de la industria y toma el nombre del día de cierre de la planta que ocurrió el 21 de octubre de 2011. A través de este convenio con el Ministerio, participan en actividades de prevención y promoción de salud, colaboran con la promoción de las políticas llevadas adelante en materia de control de tabaco y asisten al Ministerio de Salud Pública en el control del cumplimiento de la normativa vigente. En pos de implementar las medidas del Convenio Marco, hemos creado en Uruguay el Centro de Cooperación Internacional de Control de Tabaco, que es un centro de conocimiento y cooperación creado en la órbita del Ministerio de Salud y forma parte de los centros de intercambio de conocimientos, aprobado por la Conferencia de las Partes del Convenio Marco para el control del tabaco de la OMS y ha sido reconocido por la Secretaría del Convenio Marco, con quien trabaja de forma coordinada. Las autoridades del centro me han acompañado y se encuentran presentes, así que esperamos poder establecer lazos de cooperación a partir de actividades que organicemos en conjunto y de las que sin duda aprenderemos juntos y fortaleceremos de este modo la aplicación del Convenio Marco.

En cuanto al comercio ilícito de los productos de tabaco, queremos anunciarles que Uruguay ha ratificado el Protocolo de comercio ilícito y exhortamos a las partes a que ratifiquen este instrumento, que será una herramienta vital para luchar contra el delito y la corrupción que general el comercio ilegal, a la vez que permite una mayor eficacia de las medidas de control del tabaco. A partir de la aplicación sistemática de las medidas recomendadas por el Convenio Marco, Uruguay pudo comprobar en la práctica la efectividad de las mismas. La prevalencia del consumo de tabaco descendió en los últimos 10 años 10 puntos porcentuales, y en la población de 12 a 17 años este descenso fue de 20 puntos porcentuales. Asimismo, hemos visto un descenso anual en el ingreso hospitalario por infarto agudo de miocardio de un 22 %, lo que significa un importante logro sanitario. Varias investigaciones han demostrado que la contaminación del aire en los espacios cerrados disminuyó en más del 90 % a partir de la implementación de los ambientes libres de humo. Es decir, la aplicación de las medidas ha tenido un efecto positivo en la salud de nuestra población, un efecto real, medible y que nos llena de satisfacción y orgullo.

Lamentablemente, nos hemos encontrado con un fuerte opositor contra la implementación de estas medidas. Este opositor es la industria tabacalera. Quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad para referirme a la situación generada por las amenazas que las grandes multinacionales del tabaco hacen a los países cuando implementamos el Convenio Marco. La industria tabacalera se comporta como un vector de la epidemia del tabaquismo y sus antecedentes de negar durante décadas que el consumo de tabaco era dañino para la salud, denegar durante décadas que la nicotina era adictiva, de orientar su marketing a los jóvenes, de utilizar términos engañosos para hacer creer que unos productos eran menos nocivos que otros y de manipular los productos de tabaco para lograr mayor adicción nos

demuestran que estamos ante un adversario sin escrúpulos. Frente a este tipo de industria que se ampara en las reglas de comercio y de protección de inversiones nos enfrentamos los países cuando defendemos la salud de nuestras poblaciones.

Quiero decir, que rechazamos enfáticamente la estrategia de la industria del tabaco para bloquear las medidas de control de tabaco. Las múltiples de tabaco tienen acciones a nivel global y han aprovechado la globalización del comercio, los acuerdos comerciales y de protección de inversiones para atacar a los países que implementan el Convenio Marco. Esta situación está denunciada en el informe presentado por la Secretaría del Convenio Marco de las partes en la COP 6.

Actualmente, parte de la interferencia de la industria es recurrir a litigios a nivel nacional e internacional. Los fundamentos de fondo esgrimidos en estos juicios tienen todos como argumento principal la supuesta violación de principios de comercio internacional, como la no discriminación, el trato nacional o la cláusula de la nación más favorecida. Ellos consideran que con la aplicación de las medidas de protección de la salud pública se les está limitando a las empresas tabacaleras su libertad de comercio.

Rechazamos estos argumentos y sostenemos que la libertad de comercio no es un principio absoluto. La libertad está limitada por el derecho soberano del Estado de proteger los derechos de los ciudadanos, en este caso, los que se refieren a la salud y la vida. Es importante dejar en claro que por su naturaleza el tabaco no puede ser asimilado como un producto común de los que se consiguen en el mercado.

Estamos hablando de un producto que contiene una droga adictiva, que provoca enfermedad y muerte a sus consumidores y a quienes están expuestos a él. De ahí la imperiosa necesidad de tomar medidas para proteger a nuestra población. Sin duda, la mejor forma de contrarrestar los fundamentos de la industria del tabaco es tratando de excluir a este y sus productos derivados de la protección de los tratados de libre comercio o de los tratados de protección de las inversiones. Pero sabemos que esto no siempre ha sido posible. Como ustedes saben, Uruguay es uno de los países afectados por las industrias tabacaleras a fin de contener las medidas de control del tabaco a través de juicios nacionales e internacionales. Una de las empresas tabacaleras más poderosas, Philip Morris nos demandó ante el CIADI del Banco Mundial, amparándose en el Acuerdo de Protección de Inversiones entre Uruguay y Suiza, firmado en 1991.

Los mecanismos que generalmente se usan para demandar a los países son el CIADI del Banco Mundial, a nivel de empresas privadas y el entendimiento de solución de diferencias del GATT, el Acuerdo General sobre Aranceles Aduaneros y Comercio, de la Organización Mundial del Comercio, cuando se trata de litigios entre Estados. Quizás esto es así debido a que el Convenio Marco en su artículo 27 no establece un mecanismo que tenga la exigencia de ser utilizado por parte de las partes litigantes en caso de interpretación o aclaración del Convenio Marco y que además sus decisiones tengan carácter obligatorio.

Creemos necesario que la COP 6 analice la aplicación del inciso 2 del artículo 27. También queremos hacer mención a que en el día de hoy Uruguay está contestando a la demanda presentada por la industria tabacalera y queremos destacar que Uruguay está ejerciendo su derecho soberano a regular estos productos tóxicos con efectos letales para la salud de la población que lo seguirá haciendo. Queremos agradecer el apoyo de múltiples países y de organismos y organizaciones internacionales a nuestra causa que es la causa de la salud pública. Estas medidas que les he mencionado parten de un consenso mundial que busca reconocer la prioridad del derecho a proteger la salud pública y es, por lo tanto, nuestra responsabilidad ineludible impulsar y aplicar las medidas contenidas en el Convenio Marco. Deseo expresarles además que desde el gobierno estamos convencidos de que obtendremos un resultado favorable en el CIADI. Pero queremos dejar bien en claro que en cualquier caso Uruguay no dará marcha atrás en el cuidado de la salud de su población.

Quiero cerrar mi participación con una frase que nuestro Presidente José Mujica dijo al Presidente Obama en su visita a la Casa Blanca este año y que encierra nuestra filosofía: «El tabaquismo es un asesinato en masa. Tenemos que luchar contra intereses muy fuertes, pero acá hay una batalla por la vida. Que nadie se haga el distraído en esta batalla porque de todos los valores el más importante es la vida». Muchas gracias.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

The next speaker is China, followed by Mexico.

Ms GUO (China):

首先请允许我代表中国代表团对您担任本届缔约方大会主席表示祝贺。我相信，在您的带领下，本届会议将取得积极成果。同时，我也要对秘书长希尔瓦女士衷心表示祝贺，并对秘书处在过去两年内的辛勤劳动表示赞赏和感谢。我还愿借此机会感谢东道国——俄罗斯政府，感谢俄方对与会代表提供的友好周到的服务。

主席先生，我们欣喜的看到自 2012 年第五届缔约方大会以来，国际社会在控烟领域继续取得令人鼓舞的进展。两年间，公约又增加了 3 个新成员，现在已经达到了 179 个缔约方，成为拥有缔约方最多的国际公约之一。上届缔约方大会通过议定书后，在短短两年间，已有包括中国在内的 54 个国家签署了议定书。可以说，随着公约和议定书普遍性的日益加强，全球范围内控制烟草危害、打击烟草制品非法贸易、维护人类健康的努力，必将取得更加积极的成果。

主席先生，中方注意到，过去两年里多个工作组或专家组就公约若干条款的实施指南或所涉问题进行了讨论，并提交了建议或报告。我们对秘书处及相关国家成员为之付出的努力表示敬意，我们很高兴有机会参加上述部分工作组的讨论，并期待在未来几天里与各位同事就更加广泛的议题充分交流。

主席先生，中国政府一贯重视保障人民健康工作，始终围绕这一目标，推进相关控烟工作。自第五届缔约方大会以来，中国政府继续严格履行公约义务，本着防控结合的方针，从政策引导、法律保障、实施监管和宣传教育等方面扎实推进控烟：

首先在政策指导方面，中国政府在 2012 年颁布了《2012-2015 年的烟草控制规划》，明确了国家控烟和履约工作，以保障人民健康为中心，以控制烟草需求和供给为主线，以持续降低人口吸烟率、公共场所禁烟全面推行、公众认识显著提高、烟草制品非法贸易得到有效遏制为主要目标。三年来，中国各部门积极行动，有力推进各项工作取得进展。在 2013 年底，中国政府还引发通知，要求各级领导干部模范遵守公共场所禁烟规定。为此，国家卫生计生委等 6 个部门也联合发出倡议书，获得了全国公务员的积极响应。

第二，在法律保障方面，中国政府大力推动控烟立法。当前相关部门正在组织起草《公共场所控制吸烟条例》。中国的立法机关也正在修订广告法，将进一步扩大禁止烟草广告的范围和形制，为中国政府更加有利的执行公约的规定提供充分的法律依据。此外，中国的海关、公安、烟草等部门还联合制定了《关于联合打击走私烟草专卖品违法犯罪活动的工作制度》等，为烟草打假走私工作提供制度保障。

第三，在实施监管方面，中国工商机关加强日常监管巡查和广告检测工作。严查各种烟草广告违法案件，严厉打击烟草制品非法贸易。今年四月，中国海关总署与国家烟草专卖局联合组织行动，集中无害化销毁了大量查获的走私卷烟。

第四，在宣传教育方面，采取多种形式加强吸烟有害健康的宣传工作。例如，结合第 26 个、27 个世界无烟日主题、发布年度控烟报告、印发控烟宣传教育核心信息、连续 5 年开展中国烟草控制大众传播活动、培养控烟媒体队伍、动员全社会力量开展控烟宣传教育等。目前中国民众对烟草烟雾危害的认识明显提高，全社会已形成支持控烟的氛围。

主席先生，根据中国《香港特别行政区基本法》和《澳门特别行政区基本法》，中国在香港特区和澳门特区实行一国两制，除外交和国防事务外，两特区享有高度自治权。在此，中国代表团愿与各位代表，分享中国香港特别行政区和澳门特别行政区在控烟领域所做的工作和取得的成绩：近年来，香港特区政府多管齐下，通过立法、执法、宣传、教育、推广戒烟服务及征税等方式，抑制烟草使用，努力降低二手烟对公众的影响。卫生署辖下的控烟办公室负责执行和实施对烟草产品管制的法力，特别是在法定禁烟区执行禁烟规定。过去数年间，控烟办公室认真跟进每一宗投诉，在 2013 年进行了 27000 多次巡查，并就吸烟罪行发出了 8300 多张

定额罚款通知单。在澳门特区方面，特区政府铁腕打击非法贸易，不断提高烟草制品的税/价水平，完善控烟立法，严格控烟执法，扎实推进控烟工作。在打击烟草走私方面，2012 和 2013 年分别缉获 1260 和 1934 宗烟草类物品的非法贸易活动。近两年来，澳门特区政府也先后出台了有关法律、行政法规，以及行政长官批示等控烟规范性文件，使控烟工作规范有序进行。

主席先生，控烟工作任重道远，中国政府愿和各国一道，不懈努力，加强合作与交流，继续全面推进控烟工作取得更大进步，为维护人类健康做出更大贡献。谢谢主席。

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you distinguished speakers, for your valuable statements. But I must say that there is a five minute time limit, so the next speakers should keep in mind the time limit. The next speaker is Mexico, followed by Australia.

Mr AVIÑA TAVARES (Mexico):

Muy buenas tardes. Podemos comentar que México ha trabajado mucho en este convenio del control del tabaco. De hecho, damos datos duros de una reducción en la superficie del cultivo del tabaco de un 80 % desde el periodo que comenzamos con la firma del Convenio Marco. Asimismo, hemos trabajado aproximadamente con unos apoyos a los productores ya convertidos de tabaco para alrededor de 80 millones de pesos para este concepto. El Gobierno de México sigue año con año apoyando a los productos en superficies ya convertidas y diversificando los productos de cultivos alternos. Con eso creo que vamos con bastante celeridad en este aspecto, estamos manejando la parte de las zonas libres de tabaco en lugares públicos y estamos avanzando en esto también. Muchas gracias.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you for your statement, Australia, you have the floor.

Ms HEYWARD (Australia):

Thank you, Mr President. Australia welcomes the report by the Convention Secretariat on global progress on implementation of the FCTC, and we commend Parties on continued progress on implementing tobacco control measures. We greatly appreciate the Secretariat's continued efforts to support accelerated implementation of the Convention, and have provided extra budgetary contributions to facilitate these efforts in line with the COP's work programme. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Haik Nikogosian for his invaluable contribution as the Head of the Convention Secretariat since the inception of the WHO FCTC and wish him all the best in his future endeavours. We also warmly welcome Dr Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva, and congratulate her on her appointment as the new Head of this Convention Secretariat. Australia certainly looks forward to continuing our cooperation with the Convention Secretariat under her leadership.

Over the past two years, Australia has continued its tobacco control efforts and has implemented new and expanded existing tobacco control legislation. Most notably, Australia's world first tobacco plain-packaging legislation took full effect from 1 December 2012. In line with tobacco plain packaging, separate legislation was introduced to update and expand the graphic health warnings which are required on tobacco product packaging. Tobacco plain packaging decreases the appeal of tobacco products, increases the effect of graphic health warnings, and reduces the ability of branding and packaging designs to mislead consumers of the harmful effects of tobacco products.

Since the introduction of the tobacco plain packaging measure in Australia, research has shown a change in consumer perceptions around tobacco use, including increased urgency to quit, lowered appeal of the use of tobacco products, and perceived changes to the taste, quality and satisfaction of smoking cigarettes. This demonstrates that tobacco plain packaging has been effective in reducing the power of product packaging, including branding, to promote tobacco use to consumers. Of course, as colleagues here know, the tobacco industry has vigorously opposed tobacco plain packaging, launching legal challenges under both domestic and international law. In 2012, the Australian Government successfully defended the tobacco plain packaging measure against tobacco industry challenges in the High Court of Australia. We will continue to fight challenges that have been brought by several countries in the World Trade Organization. Many FCTC Parties have joined this dispute as third Parties, and we thank those who have indicated their support for Australia. While this is a trade dispute, it is nevertheless very important that health ministries are closely engaged to ensure that health and tobacco control concerns are reflected in your formal country positions in the WTO legal proceedings. Australia also continues to defend the challenge brought by Philip Morris Asia under a bilateral investment treaty.

Mr President, tobacco plain packaging is part of a comprehensive package of tobacco control measures, which we have continued to extend and strengthen since COP5. Among new developments since 2012, the Australian Government has extended tobacco advertising and promotion bans to the internet and other electronic media such as mobile phones, reduced allowances for the amount of duty-free tobacco products that travellers are allowed to bring into Australia, introduced stronger penalties for tobacco smuggling, enhanced quitline services, launched new phases of mass-media campaigns, using television, print, radio and digital formats, as well as two quit aid smartphone apps, and introduced a four-staged increase in excise and excise equivalent customs duty, over 2013–2016, representing a total increase of 50% in tobacco-related taxes.

Further, all Australian health ministers endorse the new national tobacco strategy for 2012–2018, and governments have continued to work hard at a subnational level. All state and territory governments in Australia now have bans on smoking in cars where children are present, and have implemented point-of-sale display bans. The combination of these measures has contributed to an almost halving of the daily smoking rate in Australia since 1991, falling from 24.3% of people aged 14 years and over smoking daily in 1991, to 12.8% in 2013. These are encouraging results; however smoking rates are still unacceptably high. The Australian Government is committed to continuing its comprehensive approach to further reducing smoking prevalence and tobacco-related harm, and we look forward to doing so in continued cooperation with all of you, thank you.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Australia. The next speaker is Azerbaijan, followed by India.

Dr MAMMADOV (Azerbaijan):

Уважаемый Председатель, уважаемые участники Конференции Сторон, от имени азербайджанской делегации, разрешите приветствовать вас на очередной сессии Конференции Сторон Рамочной конвенции ВОЗ по борьбе против табака. Позвольте, в первую очередь, выразить глубочайшую благодарность правительству Российской Федерации за инициативу проведения очередной сессии в Москве, за проявленное гостеприимство и теплый прием. Разрешите также поблагодарить Стороны, председателей комитетов и секретариат за проведенную работу и представленные по её итогам доклады.

Как и для всего международного сообщества, решение проблем, связанных с потреблением табака и воздействием табачного дыма на население, является крайне актуальным для Азербайджана.

Рамочная конвенция была ратифицирована в Азербайджане в 2005 году. Тем не менее, и сегодня, спустя 9 лет после ратификации, Азербайджан всё ещё входит в число стран с

высоким числом потребителей табака и тех людей, которые подвергаются пассивному курению. Поэтому Азербайджан крайне заинтересован в формировании на международном уровне целенаправленной политики по борьбе против табака и готов принимать активное участие в этом процессе.

Борьба с потреблением табака, как одна из причин преждевременных смертей и тяжелых неинфекционных заболеваний является одним из приоритетов для азербайджанского здравоохранения. При поддержке ВОЗ, Азербайджан уже разработал национальную стратегию профилактики и контролю за НИЗ, в которой меры по борьбе с табаком являются мощным инструментом, способным внести значительный вклад в улучшение здоровья населения страны, особенно детей и молодежи.

В числе намеченных мер основными для нас являются принятие нормативно-правовых актов, которые позволят поэтапно ввести ограничительные меры, защищающие граждан Азербайджана от вторичного табачного дыма, последовательно увеличить налог на табачные изделия, ввести запрет для всех видов рекламы, спонсорства и стимулирования продаж табачных изделий.

Азербайджанская делегация ожидает, что предстоящая неделя окажется продуктивной и приблизит нас к решению насущных задач, стоящих перед сторонами РКБТ.

Примите наилучшие пожелания в деле построения наиболее конструктивного и эффективного диалога.

Благодарю за внимание.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Azerbaijan. Before giving the floor to the next speaker, I want to note that the lighting in this room is causing some difficulties for some delegates. Support is on its way to address it so tomorrow the situation should be improved. The light is too strong. Thank you Azerbaijan, India you have the floor.

(Applause)

Mr MISHRA (India):

Thank you, Chair. Mr President, I take the floor on behalf of the Parties in the South-East Asia Region. Let me begin, first and foremost, by congratulating and welcoming the new Head of the Convention Secretariat. On your visit to India last month, we had assured you of our continued constructive cooperation in the Convention activities, and we reiterate that.

Mr President, we will be completing 10 years of the existence of the Convention in 2015. This COP happens to be the precursor of the completion of 10 years. On this occasion, we would like to congratulate all Parties for collectively striving to adopt a dynamic and progressive approach to tobacco control based on provisions of the WHO FCTC. Speaking on behalf of the South-East Asia Region, I would like to highlight some of the key concerns of the region. The prevalence of smokeless tobacco users is the highest in many of the countries of the South-East Asia Region, which has nearly 90% of global smokeless tobacco users. The report from WHO says that the consumption of smokeless tobacco has already become a global public health problem, with more than 80 Parties reporting the use of some form of smokeless tobacco. As such, if this menace is not tackled in time and with strong measures, it has the potential of becoming a global threat of massive proportion based largely on its aggressive marketing strategy, attractive packaging, flavouring and of course, affordability. It is high time we decided to agree on a common minimum plan of action and policy options to contain its spread within and across countries and regions. The South-East Asia Region has proposed a draft decision on this issue and we expect solidarity and support from other countries and region so that we are able to have a clear roadmap ahead to deal with the challenges of smokeless tobacco use.

Party countries in the region are committed to eliminate all forms of illicit trade in tobacco products and are preparing to accede to the Protocol. However, pending coming into force of the Protocol under Article 15, we call for an increased international cooperation on the issue of illicit trade in tobacco products. We would also request the Convention Secretariat to provide more targeted, need-based assistance to the Parties and play an overarching role in garnering international cooperation on the issue of illicit trade. We fully recognize that tobacco tax and price measure is the most important measure to reduce tobacco use, and prevent young users from starting tobacco use. Parties in the region have been actively involved in drafting Article 6 guidelines and we believe that these guidelines, once adopted by Parties, will be another historical milestone for tobacco control. We very much look forward to effectively implementing the guidelines, as we believe that it is a win-win policy for all governments, both on the public health front as well as on fiscal policy. We would therefore like to wholeheartedly support adoption of the draft guidelines on Article 6 without any dilution.

The region considers electronic nicotine delivery systems as a potential threat, especially in the light of the experts' concern about safety, dual-use and possible gateway effects. We believe that there is a real threat that children, and non-smokers generally, will initiate nicotine use with ENDS at a rate greater than expected if ENDS didn't exist. And also, that once addicted to nicotine, through ENDS, children will switch to cigarette smoking or tobacco use. As such, we could consider a ban on these products. We may choose to change our strategy however, if unbiased and scientific evidence emerges about its efficacy as a tobacco-cessation aid. The success of the ban strategy will however also depend on how we agree to control illicit trade across the border, including through the internet. We are therefore open to support a draft decision on ENDS subject to the condition that a ban strategy is also considered as one of the policy options as part of the draft decision. We are extremely concerned at the growing commercialization of waterpipe usage, and we request COP to consider options to tackle this threat.

Friends, it is important that FCTC addresses the emerging public health challenges on tobacco control, as and when they emerge. FCTC means a Convention not only for national actions, laws and policy options, but also international cooperation between Parties, countries and regions. If we fail to address these things through COP, the important issues in the nick of time, we might fall behind in our quest for achieving the objectives of the Convention and the Convention itself may run the risk of losing its relevance in the long run. We can, for our part, remain committed to proactively taking measures to counter the challenges evolving out of continuous interference by the tobacco industry. In this context, we would appeal to all Parties and to the Convention Secretariat and to various international bodies to be wary of support through surreptitious entry of tobacco industry or its affiliates in any manner from the South-East Asia Region, Thailand will propose a draft decision on Article 5.3 and would request support from other Parties and regions to support and strengthen the implementation of the Article 5.3 guidelines and further measures relating to this issue. This draft decision, Mr President, is expected to fill the gaps in the existing guidelines and therefore needs to be strongly supported.

The region also wishes to bring to the attention of the COP a matter that affects 8 out of the 10 Parties in the South-East Asia Region. Travel support has existed for these Parties to make their contribution very successfully. The region urges that travel policy should continue to fully support participation of lower- and lower-middle-income Parties. The South-East Asia Region has many success stories of its own and we would be happy to share our experience to support the implementation of FCTC in any manner. We really support the extension of the mandate of the working group on measures for sustainable implementation of FCTC to identify country and region-specific needs of assistance and effective approaches in mobilizing resources for our purposes. Our Region is aware of the emerging complexities in the realm of tobacco control. Fortunately, we have many assets as we confront these challenges. We have strong tobacco control leaders, and advocates, committed to tobacco control policy and programmes, strong political commitments, and active non-governmental agencies. The Region could continue to move forward together, progressively in meeting its FCTC obligations and we look forward to working in close collaboration with other Parties and regions, as well as national and international partners, on various shared agendas. We actually need to ensure that our thoughts are translated into action, and make sure that our actions succeed. Thank you very much, Mr President, and all of you.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you India for your statement. The next speaker is Brazil, followed by the Republic of Korea.

Mr VALLIM GUERREIRO (Brazil):

Mr President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentleman. First of all Brazil would like to warmly welcome Dr Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva as head of the Secretariat of the WHO FCTC. For my country it is an honour to have in this position a knowledgeable and respected expert and leader, who has contributed so much to help promotion on tobacco control in Brazil, and internationally. We wish Dr Costa e Silva success in her mission. I would also like to thank the Russian Federation for hosting this COP and for its hospitality towards all delegations. As we approach the tenth anniversary of FCTC we must assess the progress made in the implementation of the Convention and its effects on tobacco consumption. The speech of the Head of the Secretariat acknowledges the impressive achievements made by most of the Parties of the Convention.

In my country one of the most encouraging developments of this decade has been a deep cultural shift in favour of a tobacco-free society. Today the proportion of smokers in Brazil is less than 12%. Based on this broad social consensus, the Brazilian government reaffirms its commitment to continue to improve its national policies, as well as to cooperate with partners to achieve progress internationally. Since COP5 in Seoul, Brazil has further improved its policies which resulted in significant progress. A gradual increase of taxation on cigarettes, and a change in the taxes that make cigarettes more expensive. It is estimated that an increase in prices accounted for almost 50% of the decline in smoking among Brazilians. Studies have shown that the increases in cigarette prices have lead them to plainly quit or reduce consumption. At the same time the revenues from taxation collection on cigarettes increased by more than 100%. This year Brazil's Ministry of Health set in place the regulation on the anti-smoking law, which has established a smoke-free policy in all indoor environs of collective use and has also banned the advertisement of tobacco products at the point of sale.

Another important domestic development has been the prohibition of the use of additives in cigarettes or similar products in 2012. Unfortunately, this law has been suspended by an injunction and the case has been referred to our Supreme Court. This case is only one example of the legal challenges faced by partners in relation to tobacco control measures. Brazil considers that it is time to give permanence to issues which have not been in the spotlight in the implementation of FCTC. We consider that developing comprehensive assessments of the economic impact of tobacco use on health systems and disease burden and other impacts, such as the social-environment impact, are instrumental to further foster the implementation of FCTC. Brazil is convinced that given that tobacco harms have a heavy burden on the poor, measures of control are also tools to fight poverty and promote reputable development worldwide. Of particular concern to Brazil is the need to assist thousands of small farmers and families that depend on tobacco production in the transition to a scenario of low international demand. Brazil is taking gradual yet steady steps to help rewards and economically viable alternatives.

We have developed the framework for alternative livelihoods that addresses the problem holistically, considering all aspects of farmers' livelihoods. Such a balanced framework inspires the drafting of a policy option to consider recommendations on article 17 and 18, which we will discuss and hopefully adopt at COP6. Concerning the protocol to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products, Brazil is taking the necessary steps to accede shortly to this important treaty and congratulates the countries which have already ratified it. Mr President, in order to deal with the different challenges relating to FCTC's implementation, the Brazil governance body of FCTC is chaired by the ministry of health and involves 18 different government agencies. We consider that the government, as a whole approach is in condition to speed up progress of implementation of FCTC. We believe that offering cooperation is the aim of helping countries that have not yet done so, or established their own national

FCTC implementation commission, will be one of the priorities of the Parties and of the Secretariat. Finally, I wish all delegations success in the days ahead, thank you.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Brazil. The next speaker is the Republic of Korea, followed by Libya.

Mr KIM (Republic of Korea):

Thank you Mr President. First of all, my delegation would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Russian Federation for their contribution to organize the conference, and also to Dr Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva and Dr Haik Nikogosian, the current and former head of the Conventional Secretariat and their team for dedicated efforts in preparing for the sixth session in the conference of Parties. I'm also grateful to the President, and members of the Bureau of the COP for your contribution during the intersessional period.

Since 2005, the FCTC has been significantly contributing to saving lives and to improve public health by enhancing tobacco control for the last 10 years. We are standing at the beginning of a new decade of the Convention. It is an important moment to promote the implementation of FCTC through cooperation among Parties, recalling the spirit of the Seoul declaration adopted at the fifth session of the COP. After ratifying the Convention in 2005, the government of the Republic of Korea has reduced male smoking prevalence by 10% through national tobacco control policies. Regarding Article 8, protection from exposure to tobacco smoke, the Korean government designated all restaurants, bars, and cafés to be completely smoke-free areas by 2015. With respect to the emerging tobacco product, including electronic cigarettes and other types of nicotine delivery devices, my government decided to categorize these as tobacco products. Tobacco taxes have been levied on all types of tobacco products, including e-cigarette, smokeless and waterpipe tobacco since July 2014. Therefore, newly-emerging tobacco products are being regulated as the same as cigarettes in Korea now.

Last month, my government announced an ambitious and comprehensive tobacco control plan, including price and non-price measures. According to this plan, cigarettes prices will be raised by about 80%, along with a tax raise, graphic health warnings on tobacco packaging and the ban on tobacco product promotion at retail shops will be carried out. In addition, for the first time in PR Korea, the Korean national health insurance corporation raised a lawsuit case to the tobacco companies. We hope this will be a significant step towards controlling tobacco industry through a legal pathway. As my delegation will organize a lunchtime seminar on this issue this Thursday with the Western Pacific Regional Office, I wish we can share our experiences with Parties through this event. Mr President, we are gathering today to make further progress towards a healthier, tobacco-free world. For the proactive implementation of FCTC, and the full preparation for the protocol adapted in Seoul, it is time to consider strengthening the Convention Secretariat to serve Parties effectively in the next decade. We hope for all Party success in tobacco control and this conference to be a milestone to prepare the next 10 years. Thank you, Mr President.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, the next speaker is Libya, on behalf of the Eastern Mediterranean Region, followed by the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Mr DAGANEE (Libya):

يسرني أن أتحدث نيابة عن إقليم شرق المتوسط وأود في البداية أن أتوجه بالشكر الجزيل للاتحاد الروسي على استضافة الدورة السادسة لمؤتمر الأطراف في اتفاقية منظمة الصحة العالمية السيدية الإطارية لمكافحة التبغ. كما أتوجه بالشكر له أيضاً على تهنئة السيد إدريس المؤتمري، البروفيسور من، وأهني الذكورة في بيرداكوس تادا سيدل فاب تولى بهارناسة أمانة الاتفاقيات. وانتهز الفرصة لأتوجه بالشكر للسيد هليك نيكوسيانر على أمانة الاتفاقيات السابقة على مجهوداته في سبيل تنفيذها أثناء فترة رية لمكافحة التبغ عمله كرئيس لأمانتها. إن إقليم شرق المتوسط يجدد التزامه بالاتفاقيات الإطارية والعمل على مكافحة استخدام التبغ بكافة أشكاله ويؤكد على ما يلي:

ضرورة حماية مؤتمر الأطراف من تدخلات صناعة التبغ بما فيها حضور كل من لهم علاقة بدوائر صناعة التبغ لجلسات المؤتمر. كما أن الإقليم يجمع على ضرورة وضع معايير لرقبول المنظمات بصفة مراقب ويرى عدم قبول أي منظمة لها علاقة بدوائر صناعة التبغ.

ويؤكد الإقليم دعمه لبروتوكول الخاص بالإتجار غير المشروع لمنجات التبغ ويدعو الدول الأعضاء سرعة التوقيع والمصادقة عليه وإلى ضرورة تبادل الخبرات والدعم التقني لمساعدة الدول الإقليم على هذا البروتوكول. ومن أجل إنجاز المهام الموكلة إلى هذا المؤتمر، فإن الأعضاء في الإقليم يرون عدم فتح النقاش فيما يخص الدلائل الإرشادية للمادة السادسة، حيث أن الفريق العامل قد مادة. إن إقليم ولاية مناقشة البند بما فيه الكفاية ويجب إنجازها في أقرب وقت ممكن لأهمية ما تحويه هذه ال شرق المتوسط، دعماً من هذا المؤتمر، يتبنى مسودة مشروع قرار بشأن استخدام الشيشة التي لا تقل خطورة عن غيرها من أنواع التبغ الأخرى وخاصة في جميع دول هذا الإقليم. وتمشياً مع القرار الصادر عن الاجتماع رفيع المستوى للجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة ا يخصص مكافحة الأمراض غير المعدية وتبني هدف خفض استهلاك التبغ بنسبة 03% بحلول عام 2025.

ترودا هذه الخلود إدخاً من مديدت حتى سناً أشل اذهب رارق عورش مدي ميق إل اناف، 2025 من عالياً مجهوداتها في سبيل وأخيراً، نتوجه بالشكر لجميع الفرق العاملة بين الدورتين الخامسة والسادسة لهذا المؤتمر ونش تسهيل مهامه. نكرر الشكر للاتحاد الروسي على استضافته لهذه الدورة وحسن الترتيب والإعداد لها. كما لا يفوتنا أن نتوجه بالشكر لأمانة الاتفاقية وكل من ساهم في التمام هذا الاجتماع وأتمنى لهذا الاجتماع التوفيق وشكراً.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Lao People's Democratic Republic followed by Panama.

Professor VONGVICHIT (Lao People's Democratic Republic):

Mr President of COP6, on behalf of the Lao delegation, I would like to congratulate the FCTC Secretariat for the hard work to attain new achievements since COP5, and I would like to express our appreciation to the Government of the Russian Federation for their kind hospitality hosting this conference in beautiful Moscow. Lao PDR supports the achievements reported in the global progress of the WHO FCTC implementation. Lao Government has focused on public health safety by preventing and control of lifestyle factors, especially tobacco. Last year the Government adopted the Prime Minister's decree on tobacco control fund by collecting 2.5% fee of retail price. This fund will be utilized to help promotion and tobacco control activities.

In 2015, Lao PDR will transform from the current text health warning to the 60% mandatory graphic health warning on tobacco products. However, like many developing countries, Lao PDR continues to experience the tobacco industry's interference to implement tobacco promotion and sponsorship, reluctant to implement the price and measures and regulation of the contents of tobacco products. Lao PDR believes that the strong cooperation among State members is required to join forces at regional and global levels and to support the countries to adopt and enforce the national tobacco control legislation, according to WHO FCTC guidelines.

Like many countries, Lao PDR still has needs concerning specific areas of treaty implementation, for example lack of testing facility, unavailability of drugs for treatment of tobacco dependence, limited human resources and lack of capacity to carry out mass-media campaigns. We would like to learn from the lessons of other countries. In closing, I wish COP6 success. Thank you Mr Chairman for your kind attention. Thank you.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the next speaker is Panama, followed by Zambia.

Dr ROA (Panama):

Gracias, señor Presidente. Con nuestra participación en esta COP hacemos llegar a todos ustedes un caluroso saludo del nuevo gobierno de Panamá, liderado por el Presidente de la República, Juan Carlos Varela y nuestro ministro de salud, el Dr Francisco Javier Terrientes, quienes apoyan con fuerzas renovadas la aplicación del Convenio Marco en Panamá y el fortalecimiento de los procesos de coordinación intersectoriales a estos efectos.

Queremos ratificar que el consumo de tabaco es un problema de salud pública que genera conflictos de intereses, dada la contraposición de la salud pública, que defiende el derecho a la salud y a una vida con calidad, frente a los intereses comerciales de la industria tabacalera, que comercia productos que aunque lícitos son adictivos y causan enfermedad, incapacidad y muerte. Este conflicto hace necesario velar permanentemente por el cumplimiento de las disposiciones del artículo 5.3 del Convenio. Desde que ratificamos el Convenio Marco hemos hecho efectiva su implementación mediante la Ley del 13 de enero de 2008, que concentra un esfuerzo normativo para el control del tabaco mediante la aplicación de medidas de efectividad comprobada para lograr una protección real de la salud de la población, lo que se traduce en una prevalencia de consumo de tabaco de 6,4 %, la más baja de la Región de las Américas según datos de la Encuesta del tabaco mundial en adultos.

Como consecuencia de la voluntad política y por los esfuerzos obtenidos en la aplicación del convenio, Panamá fue elegida como país sede para el lanzamiento del informe de la OMS sobre la epidemia mundial del tabaquismo del 2013, reconociendo especialmente sus logros con respecto a la prohibición total de publicidad, promoción y patrocinio de productos de tabaco, donde nuestro país fue el primer país de las Américas en aplicar esta prohibición. Aunque tenemos muchos retos y desafíos pendientes, hoy día estamos realizando esfuerzos para la ratificación del Protocolo para la Eliminación del Comercio Ilícito, dada la importancia de su implementación como mecanismo para fortalecer la aplicación integral del Convenio. En septiembre de este año, Panamá fue sede del taller regional sobre la implementación del Convenio Marco de la OMS para el Control del Tabaco con el fin de evaluar el grado de aplicación del mismo en la región a través del intercambio de experiencias, así como el abordaje de temas emergentes y la preparación para esta COP.

A nivel mundial, el gran avance del más alto nivel de las medidas del control de tabaco es un signo creciente de éxito del Convenio Marco y proporciona una fuerte evidencia de que hay voluntad política de las partes en la protección de la salud pública mundial y el combate a la epidemia de tabaquismo, por lo que exhortamos a las partes a aprobar las directrices del artículo 6 sin reservas, así como la regulación de los productos y otras formas novedosas de administración de nicotina, que la industria ha puesto de moda y que estimula la iniciación en nuestros jóvenes y en nada beneficia la implementación de este tratado.

La delegación panameña le agradece a usted señor Presidente sus gestiones para lograr el éxito de esta COP, así como a la Federación Rusa por la organización de este evento, al Dr Haik Nikogosian por el trabajo realizado en su calidad de jefe del secretariado durante los pasados 7 años y felicita a la Dra. Vera Luiza e Silva, nuestra hermana de la Región de las Américas, por su designación como jefa del Secretariado. Asimismo, agradecemos en nombre de Panamá y en el mío propio la confianza depositada por los Estados Partes de las Américas para que les represente durante los trabajos de la mesa. Gracias, señor Presidente.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you Panama, the next speaker is Zambia, followed by Micronesia.

Dr MAKASA (Zambia):

Mr President and COP, on behalf of the African Region we would like to thank the government of the Russian Federation for hosting us during this sixth session of the COP. We would also like to welcome the new Head of the Convention Secretariat and wish her well in her new role. The African Region has high expectations of this COP6, and we would like to encourage all Parties to focus on the objectives of the Convention, as well as negotiate, debate and agree on critical issues. Let us recall the main reason we negotiated at WHO FCTC: it is to protect and prevent future generations from the devastating effects of tobacco and tobacco products.

Mr President, the African Region would like to note that we have a full agenda and we would like to urge Parties present here to contribute as precisely and helpfully as possible so that we could have a good outcome and also get through the whole agenda. Mr President, the African Region would like to emphasize some items on the agenda that we feel need special attention. The Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products is open for ratification and accession. We urge Parties to the Convention to ratify and accede to the Protocol so that it comes into force as soon as possible. Article 6 on price and tax measures requires our support so that Parties can have even more possibility to limit tobacco use, especially among the youth.

Mr President, the tobacco industry is actively introducing new products into the market to try and beat the laws and regulations that countries are putting into place. Regulating these emerging products is a priority for our Region and we urge Parties to tackle these issues of electronic cigarettes, waterpipes, and smokeless cigarettes decisively and give clear guidance. Economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing is a key item to us and we encourage Parties to approach this in a transparent manner to ensure any work on this matter is geared towards achieving the objectives and intentions of Articles 17 and 18.

The other important issue for our region is Article 5.3: we urge Parties to establish a mechanism to provide better guidance than we have right now. The tobacco industry is changing every day, and we need to establish mechanisms that counter the new faces and protect and prevent future generations from tobacco harm.

The issues of budget cannot be exaggerated and some detailed, transparent and constructive discussions will be key to ensure that the resources for implementation of the Convention are available. We however must point out that the sources of funding for our extrabudgetary activities must be closely vetted so we do not get sources that are not in the interest of the public, or public health. We propose that such extrabudgetary sources be limited to Party sources and intergovernmental organizations that are respectful of Article 5.3. Opening up our budgets to sources that are not clear should not be welcome. Finally, Mr President, we would like to wish you well as you steer this COP6 and we look forward to decisions that are productive and that prevent future generations from harm, I thank you.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Zambia. The next speaker is Federated States of Micronesia, followed by Thailand.

Mr SAMO (Federated States of Micronesia):

Thank you, Mr President. First let me start by extending my delegation's appreciation to the Government and people of the Russian Federation for hosting COP6 and for their great hospitality extended to us. I also would like to congratulate you once again, Mr President, for your election two years ago and for your great leadership of this COP. Micronesia congratulates the new Head of the

Secretariat and in the same vein would like to also register on record its appreciation to the outgoing Head of the Secretariat and all the support it receives. We look forward to working with the new Head of the Secretariat and all the team members.

Mr President, Micronesia appreciates the comprehensive report from the Secretariat on the global progress in the implementation of this FCTC, contained in documents FCTC/COP/6/5 and FCTC/COP6/5/Add.1. We note the achievements and positive trend outlined in the report that Parties who submitted reports have made. According to the report, there are marked improvements in most of the articles of the FCTC, while a few notable challenges or lessons learnt were also cited. While this is good news to us indeed, our quest for tobacco control toward improved health is far from over. Micronesia urges the Secretariat to not just note the uneven progress in the implementation rates among Parties and regions, but to use the variants as a means to strengthen and offer Party-specific solutions and technical assistance toward full implementation of this FCTC. Once again, Micronesia supports all the assistance provided thus far, thank you.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you Micronesia. The next speaker is Thailand, followed by Algeria.

Dr CHEANKLIN (Thailand):

Mr President, thank you for giving Thailand the floor. First I would like to express my gratitude for the Russian Federation for hosting this COP6 in this magnificent city, and on behalf of the Thai anti-tobacco community I would like to welcome and congratulate our new Head of Convention, Dr Vera da Costa e Silva, and we are looking forward to working with you in the near future.

May I take the opportunity to share with you Thailand's creation of tobacco controls since the last COP? In April 2013, the Minister of Public Health in Thailand issued a regulation to require 85% graphic health warnings on cigarette packages. The decision was inspired by the leadership of Uruguay (for 80% graphic health warnings) and Australia's plain packaging regulation. Thailand also followed a recommendation of the FCTC Article 11 guidelines that effectiveness of the health warning increases with size and Parties should try to require the largest health warnings possible. The regulation was signed by our Minister of Health in April 2013, and enforced on 2 October 2013, but three trans-national tobacco companies (we don't have to mention their names) and one of their front organizations filed separate law suits in Thailand's administrative courts, asking the courts to put a stay order and ultimately declare the regulation of graphic health controls to be illegal. The courts issued a stay order in August 2013. The Ministry of Public Health appealed the state order to the high court, and in June 2013 the high court lifted the stay order. Thus the regulation requiring 85% graphic health warnings was fully implemented on 23 September 2014 after a 90-days grace period given to the tobacco industry to comply. Currently all cigarette packages in Thailand must carry an 85% graphic health warning; however the second request for the courts to rule that the regulation was illegal is still pending in the courts.

On another progress, the Thai government decided to legally ban imports and sales of electronic nicotine systems and all kinds of water tobacco, and I've just learned from my colleague that this regulation is to be passed through the cabinet tomorrow, and we hope it will be enacted very soon.

Another development in Thailand's Health Promotion Fund is funding from a 2% surcharge from tobacco and alcohol producers/importers to fund health promotion on tobacco control. Thaihealth is now entering its 13th year in operation; the model has received interest from many countries, and many have successfully adopted the model in their own country to provide adequate and sustainable funding for tobacco control in line with the recommendations of the FCTC Article 6 guidelines. SEATCA, the Southeast Asian Tobacco Control Alliance, is a regional board set up in supporting capacity building for Asian countries in tobacco control, in particular to increase tobacco tax and set up tobacco control health-promotion funds. Mr President, Head of the Convention Secretariat, Thailand will continue to rigorously implement various conditions of FCTC to reduce the damage

from tobacco use. We will continue to work collectively with all Parties to achieve the goals of tobacco control, regionally and globally. Thank you for your attention.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you Thailand. The next speaker is Algeria, followed by Togo.

Professor NAFTI (Algeria):

Monsieur le Président, je tiens à vous exprimer tous mes remerciements pour m'avoir donné la parole. Au nom de toute la délégation algérienne, je voudrais vous féliciter pour votre nomination en tant que Président de la Conférence des Parties, et aussi féliciter Mme Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva pour sa nomination en tant que chef du secrétariat.

Je remercie également la Fédération de Russie de nous accueillir dans cette COP-6, et je suis persuadé que nos travaux seront couronnés de succès.

Mon pays, monsieur le président, a été l'un des premiers à ratifier la Convention-cadre de lutte contre le tabagisme, mais il présente des particularités importantes.

C'est d'abord un pays continent de près de deux millions de kilomètres carrés, avec six pays riverains et une frontière longue de cinq mille kilomètres. Cela favorise le trafic, la contrebande et la contrefaçon. Nous essayons bien sûr de limiter l'impact de ces actions, mais la tâche est difficile.

Nous constatons pourtant une évolution positive dans le tabagisme en Algérie, car en trente années, le nombre de fumeurs a certes triplé, mais le nombre d'ex-fumeurs a doublé.

Dans les années 1980, environ 40 % de la population masculine fumaient ; ils ne sont plus que 23 % aujourd'hui même si ce chiffre reste élevé. Les femmes fument quant à elles beaucoup moins, de 13 % dans les années 1980 à 9 % de nos jours. Mais ce qui nous préoccupe le plus, c'est le tabagisme des jeunes – enfants et adolescents – qui se situe aux alentours de 12 %.

En conséquence, les actions que mène mon pays sont diverses et variées, allant de la décision politique à l'action de la société civile qui fournit des efforts remarquables.

Néanmoins, en raison de certaines contraintes, nous éprouvons des difficultés à appliquer correctement toutes les mesures contenues dans la Convention-cadre.

La mesure concernant les avertissements inscrits sur les paquets de cigarettes devrait être mise en application en 2015.

L'augmentation de la taxe sur le tabac est réelle et progressive, et nous avons créé à ce titre un fond d'urgence financé par taxe additionnelle sur le paquet de tabac, et qui sert à prendre en charge les maladies liées au tabagisme. En 2013, grâce à ces taxes, nous avons pu créer un autre fond contre le cancer, destiné à la prise en charge des personnes atteintes par cette maladie occasionnée par le tabac.

La société civile se mobilise également, et représente un acteur incontournable de la lutte antitabac. Son action est très appréciée, aussi bien de la population que des établissements éducatifs. Ces démarches seraient incomplètes sans la formation du personnel chargé de la lutte antitabac. C'est pourquoi nous avons formé près de 350 praticiens au sevrage tabagique et ouvert 23 unités d'aide au sevrage, dont le nombre devrait atteindre 50 en 2015.

Ces actions doivent être accompagnées et poursuivies, mais nous sommes confrontés au problème de la commercialisation du tabac dans notre pays. En effet, celui-ci est fortement importé, et nous dépensons beaucoup d'argent pour le tabac en Algérie puisque la production locale ne parvient pas à couvrir la demande. Nous espérons bien sûr réduire et taxer fortement ces produits liés au tabac que notre pays continue d'importer.

Il est évident que la lutte antitabac ne saurait se limiter à quelques actions mineures, et elle doit être soutenue aussi bien par le gouvernement – le politique – que par la société civile – les professionnels. Nous avons donc créé auprès du ministère de la Santé un comité national d'experts sur la lutte antitabac, qui travaille depuis près de deux ans avec une feuille de route qui, je l'espère, lui permettra d'atteindre tous les objectifs qu'elle s'était fixés.

En outre, nous venons de mettre en place le comité national intersectoriel qui nous faisait défaut, car la lutte antitabac n'est pas uniquement du ressort du ministère de la Santé, mais concerne également tous les autres secteurs d'activité de notre pays.

Voici le bilan de notre action, que nous jugeons globalement positif même si le chemin à parcourir reste important.

Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président, et vous souhaite plein succès dans vos travaux.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Distinguished delegates, please let me say that we want now a 10 minute limit to people closing the afternoon session and at 7 o'clock there is an evening reception hosted by the Ministry Healthcare of the Russian Federation. I would like to ask your cooperation and keep to the time limit as much as you can. So the next speaker is Togo, followed by Guatemala.

Dr KUMAKO (Togo):

Merci Monsieur le Président.

Le Togo prend la parole au nom du groupe africain, et tient tout d'abord à vous féliciter pour votre élection à la tête de la COP. La Région africaine tient également à remercier le gouvernement de la Fédération de Russie pour son hospitalité et l'organisation de cette COP. Nous félicitons également le docteur da Costa pour son élection à la tête du secrétariat, et remercions le docteur Nikogosian pour l'ensemble de sa contribution à la Convention-cadre.

Nous tenons à féliciter le secrétariat pour son rapport très utile dans le cadre de cette Convention. En effet, nous soulignons que la plupart des pays africains ont accompli de grands succès grâce à l'action conjuguée du gouvernement, du secrétariat, et des ONG. Comme l'atteste ce rapport, on note une réduction de l'accessibilité au tabac dans les pays africains, aujourd'hui notoire. De plus, avant 2015, une directive sera mise en œuvre dans la région ouest-africaine pour que les taxes représentent 70 % du prix à la vente des paquets de tabac.

Nous tenons également à dire que la mesure concernant l'exposition à la fumée est devenue une réalité dans nos pays. Dans la majorité des pays africains, la loi interdit de fumer dans les lieux publics. En cas d'absence de loi, des décrets ont été pris en ce sens.

En ce qui concerne le conditionnement, nous notons avec plaisir que les paquets ont été modifiés dans la plupart des pays qui ont ratifié la Convention, ou sont en passe de l'être.

Quant à la publicité et au parrainage en faveur du tabac, ils sont bannis dans la majorité de nos pays. Toutefois, le traitement de l'addiction reste le parent pauvre de notre action, en raison d'un manque criant de moyens financiers et humains. Ensuite, la majeure partie des pays africains ont signé le protocole sur le commerce illicite, et le Gabon a ratifié l'accord. Enfin, presque tous les pays disposent d'une législation nationale ou sont en passe d'en adopter.

Par contre, il faut noter que notre région doit relever de nombreux défis, et manque actuellement de moyens pour mettre en œuvre les directives de la Convention dans leur intégralité. C'est d'autant plus vrai que nos pays ont une double charge très lourde à assumer : l'une est associée à notre transition épidémiologique et démographique, l'autre est liée aux maladies transmissibles et non transmissibles. L'épidémie du virus Ebola s'ajoute également à ce fardeau, et nos ressources sanitaires s'orientent vers la lutte contre ce fléau.

Lors des travaux de cette COP, nous souhaitons donc que les mesures d'accompagnement des pays africains, ou des pays pauvres en général, soient revues afin que tous les efforts déjà menés ne soient pas remis en cause – d'autant que le coût des maladies transmissibles ne cesse d'augmenter.

Pour finir, nous souhaitons que les travaux de cette COP soient couronnés de succès.
Je vous remercie.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Togo. The next speaker is Guatemala followed by Japan.

Mr MENESES CORONADO (Guatemala):

Gracias, señor Presidente. A Guatemala le complace participar en esta 6.ª reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes en el Convenio Marco de la Organización Mundial de la Salud para el Control del Tabaco y aprovecha esta ocasión para agradecer la hospitalidad y organización de este importante evento a la Federación de Rusia como país anfitrión, a la Secretaría del Convenio; asimismo, una sincera felicitación y agradecimiento por su incansable y eficiente labor de organización y apoyo. Guatemala está convencida de que esta conferencia se desarrollará en un espíritu constructivo que nos encaminará a una conclusión exitosa al final de esta semana. Asimismo, dado que es la primera vez que tomamos la palabra en esta sesión plenaria, quiero aprovechar para felicitar y ofrecer todo el apoyo de mi país a la Sra. Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva en su gestión al frente de la Secretaría del Convenio. Finalmente, y no por eso menos importante, también agradecer al Sr. Haik Nikogosian por sus incansables esfuerzos al frente de la Secretaría en beneficio de la salud y el control del tabaco, deseándoles muchos éxitos en sus nuevos proyectos.

Guatemala es consciente de las terribles consecuencias sanitarias, sociales, económicas y ambientales producidas por el consumo y exposición al humo del tabaco en el mundo entero. Por ello, a pesar de su nivel de desarrollo y de sus limitados recursos, Guatemala ha realizado importantes esfuerzos en la implementación de medidas para el control del tabaco. Para nuestro país, la protección de la salud es una de las prioridades fundamentales, garantizada por la Constitución de la República. En ese sentido, Guatemala está decidida a participar activa y constructivamente en las discusiones de esta semana, pendientes a mejorar la implementación de las disposiciones del Convenio Marco. Cada paso que como colectividad decidamos dar debemos hacerlo de manera firme y sobre bases muy sólidas. Es importante preservar el éxito de este Convenio y mejorar su implementación.

Como Estados Partes del mismo, no podemos darnos el lujo de adoptar medidas precipitadas, improvisadas y mucho menos incompatibles con principios fundamentales consagrados en nuestras respectivas políticas o en otros convenios internacionales. Ello no solamente nos haría perder credibilidad, sino que también erosionaría los esfuerzos pendientes a la consecución de los legítimos objetivos de la Convención. Señor Presidente, Guatemala confía en que tendremos la oportunidad de discutir, analizar y explorar todas las perspectivas posibles en cada uno de los temas de la agenda a fin de tomar las decisiones que sean más apropiadas para la protección de la salud y el control del tabaco.

Por esa razón, y dada las limitaciones del tiempo, Guatemala quisiera terminar su intervención haciendo un llamado a la reflexión. Todas las decisiones que adoptemos en esta conferencia deben ser el resultado de discusiones amplias y constructivas que tomen en consideración las diversas perspectivas y puntos de vista, así como la evidencia científica disponible cuando ello corresponda y que no exceda del mandato previsto en el Convenio.

Bajo estas bases, Guatemala está convencida de que la decisión de la COP 6 permitirá seguir fortaleciendo la implementación del Convenio, lo que a su vez derivará en mayores beneficios para la salud. Muchas gracias señor Presidente.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Guatemala. The next speaker is Japan, followed by Turkey.

Mr YAMAYA (Japan):

Thank you, Mr President. Japan would like to join other delegates in thanking and congratulating the Russian Federation for hosting this conference and I would like to congratulate our Conference that the FCTC is successfully developing. I am also pleased to report to the delegates that

Japan is successfully implementing the FCTC. Smoking prevalence in the adult population has been rapidly reducing for the last decade. The current smoking prevalence in the adult population is 19.5%. I would like to introduce Japan's efforts since COP5.

Japan launched its strategy on global health diplomacy in May 2013. We prioritize global health in foreign policy, and by fully mobilizing its knowledge and expertise, Japan contributes to realizing a world where every person can have access to a basic health-care service. We are addressing noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), which are estimated to be attributed to 57% of the number of deaths in Japan. Tobacco control is the key to prevent NCDs and together with the FCTC and other partners, Japan intends to extend our effort and we are happy to share our experience with the international community. Japan has also started the second phase of the "Health Japan 21" since the year 2013; the "Health Japan 21" has some of its second targets geared towards the year 2022. One of the targets is the adult smoking rate. We aim to decrease this from 19.5% to 12% by 2022. The Japanese Government is trying to prevent the onset and the progression of NCDs and then extend the healthy life expectancy and decrease health disparities. Japan would like to express its intention to further contribute to the FCTC. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Japan. The next speaker is Turkey, followed by Sri Lanka.

Ms ALTAN (Turkey):

Mr President, distinguished delegates and colleagues. At the outset we would like to thank the Russian authorities for their warm hospitality. It is a great pleasure for us to hold COP6 in Moscow in the Russian Federation. We would also like to thank the former Head of Secretariat Dr Haik Nikogosian and extend our welcome to Dr Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva, Head of Secretariat of the FCTC. We wish her all success during her tenure and we believe that our cooperation will further be strengthened. Tobacco control has been continuing to be among the most important public health topics, having outstanding political support in Turkey. Activities in line with the FCTC, like comprehensive smoke-free zone implementation, comprehensive public awareness and a media campaign on tobacco control, advertisement bans, pictorial health warnings on tobacco products, a quitline (which is operational 24/7), smoking cessation clinics countrywide, medication for smoking-cessation free of charge, and increasing the strength of the excise tax burden of tobacco products, have continued to be carried out after COP5. Besides the continuing activities, one of the new activities in line with the FCTC is the banning of brand-sharing. Another important development is the implementation of pictorial health warnings of tobacco products covering at least 65% of pack surfaces. Moreover, the display of the quitline logo has also become available on tobacco packs.

Mr President, the Protocol to Elimination Illicit Trade of Tobacco Products was signed by Turkey as soon as it was opened to signature in Geneva. Such an important agreement has been currently under the ratification process in Turkey. We also want to mention our appreciation for the ratification of the Protocol by other Parties since the mentioned protocol will certainly provide a strong collaboration amongst Parties, on the prevention of illicit trade of tobacco products – not only regional, but also worldwide. It has been scientifically proven that increasing tobacco products taxes results in the prevention of smoking, especially of the young population. Within this framework, the excise tax burden of tobacco products has reached 80.5% as of October 2014 in Turkey.

Another important milestone is the ban of advertising on tobacco products. Besides the implementation of the direct ban, the indirect advertisement ban has also started to be fully implemented countrywide in Turkey. To better protect the health of some smokers, children, besides the smoking ban in public transport, smoking has also been banned for the person sitting in the driver seat of private vehicles in Turkey. Moreover, closing up to one month enterprises belonging to the hospitality sector has started to be implemented, since administrative financial fines were not quite effective to deter enterprises on the protection of the closed places from smoking inside. To use

electronic delivery systems, so-called ENDS and most particularly electronic cigarettes having multiple adverse health effects on people while making difficult the implementation of the smoke-free law in most places in Turkey. Therefore, all these products – with or without tobacco – are subject to all legal regulations as tobacco products are. So, their advertisement has been banned and their use in covered places has been prevented. Moreover, as Turkey, we support further regulations including banning electronic cigarettes. Aforementioned activities have been frequently shared internationally. We are ready to give our technical support and share our experience. Finally, we want to underscore that all documents developed are important, but the ones on FCTC Articles 6, 9 and 10, 17 and 18, sustainable measures for the FCTC implementation and liability are essential for sustainable tobacco control to implement successfully the FCTC provisions countrywide, as well as worldwide. Having said that, we expect from COP6, that the mentioned documents will be considered and result in a constructive way, addressing FCTC principles, by distinguished representatives of the FCTC Parties. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Turkey. The next speaker is Sri Lanka, followed by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Dr SOMATUNGA (Sri Lanka):

Thank you, Mr President. Sri Lanka has been a strong supporter of the FCTC since its inception; we actively participated in all negotiations. Accordingly, we were the first country in Asia, and fourth in the world to ratify this first ever public health treaty. At this moment, we want to appreciate the excellent performance by Dr Haik Nikogosian during his tenure. We want to the support rendered by the Secretariat during our difficult time of legal challenge by the industry. Your support was instrumental in facing these challenges, and finally we won the battle, and we are happy to announce that we will be implementing our pictorial warnings from next year, January 2015. In the same spirit, we congratulate on her appointment and welcome Dr Vera da Costa e Silva and are looking forward to a similar strong collaboration with your team. Finally, we want to place our gratitude to the Russian Federation for hosting this event and for your excellent arrangements. Thank you, Mr President, and all of you.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Sri Lanka. The next speaker is the Islamic Republic of Iran, followed by Ghana.

Mr VALIZADEH (Islamic Republic of Iran):

Thank you, Mr Chair. Iran uses this opportunity to thank the Russian Federation, especially the Ministry of Healthcare of Russia for organizing and hosting such an excellent gathering of COP6. Indeed we have to thank Dr Haik Nikogosian and the Convention Secretariat for enthusiastic efforts made during his responsibility which led to producing lots of productive guidelines and a newborn treaty on eliminating the illicit tobacco trade. A special thanks for implementing the needs assessment for implementation of the Convention in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iran welcomes and congratulates Dr Vera da Costa e Silva as the new Head of the Convention Secretariat and wishes her success in promoting and accelerating the implementation of the first international convention of WHO and its protocol. Recalling the adoption of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products at COP5, we strongly support the ratification and entering into force of this protocol which will become the second public health instrument by calling for international cooperation for this issue.

Mr President, by considering tobacco smoking as a public health threat, Iran integrated the tobacco control programme into the primary health-care network health system, through which all people in remote areas are covered by tobacco control intervention such as free-of-charge cessation services. Considering the threat of emerging tobacco products, very well highlighted by Dr Chan, and taking into account the current challenges of waterpipe consumption in the Region, Iran has banned any production, importation and selling of electronic cigarettes, as well as smokeless tobacco at national level. We encourage other member States to regulate these products to eliminate the tobacco industry's activities, and neutralize their tactics in maintaining addictiveness among their consumers.

Of course, these products are not safe in any manner. Huge efforts have been made so far to develop different guidelines to support the implementation of the most substantive articles of the Convention, especially Articles 6 and 5.3. Mr President, taking into account that considerable activities have been taken in Iran on sensibilization of policy-makers, on the importance of raising tobacco taxation based on the information provided in the guidelines of Article 6, partially accepted in COP5, we recommend acceptance of these guidelines as they are, without any changes. Mr President, the final note is to highlight also the efforts of the expert group on Article 19 in developing the useful report considering the complexity of this issue. We are requesting COP to consider continuation of work of this very important item which directly targets the tobacco industry to be more responsible and accountable for producing its deadly products. We wish all Parties to have a productive conference, thank you.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Islamic Republic of Iran. The next speaker is Ghana, followed by Costa Rica.

Mr YIELEH CHIREH (Ghana):

Thank you, Mr President, and congratulations on your election. I also want to take advantage and thank the new Head and congratulate her and also thank the previous one for the hard work they put in. Since Ghana, in 2004, signed and ratified the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, and undertook a new assessment in 2010, we have made considerable progress in the implementation of the FCTC. The national code mechanism, set up and drawn from various ministries, departments and agencies, with full participation of civil society organizations, has continued to guide, and coordinate FCTC implementation. Ghana has a strong coalition of NGOs that have reached out to government agencies, ministries, the youth and politicians, informing, educating and advocating speeding up the attainment of the FCTC requirements. Through administrative instructions, Ghana has banned tobacco promotion, sponsorship and advertising in various media outlets and on billboards, and prohibited smoking in all schools, health facilities and government offices. All cigarette packs have 50% text health warnings on the principal display areas and efforts are being made to introduce pictorial health warnings as well.

Education, training, communication and public awareness are given a high priority in Ghana, and the activities target regions with high tobacco use, prevalence, schools and the youth. As with other Parties in the ECOAS region, the tax regime in Ghana is ad valorem at 150% import duty, the highest in the subregion, aiming to reduce tobacco consumption. The Parliament of Ghana, on 11 July 2012, passed a public health bill, with Presidential assent given on 9 October 2012, Act 851. Part 6 of this Act is on tobacco control measures, and common-sense prohibitions of smoking in public areas, advertising in relation to tobacco and tobacco products, tobacco sponsorship, promotion of tobacco and tobacco products, packaging and labelling, health warnings on packaging, minimum age restrictions, public education against tobacco use, treatment of tobacco addiction, sale of tobacco products, and power of the authority to prosecute among others. In the years 2013–2014, Ghana has strengthened its national coordination mechanism with improved reporting arrangements. and increased rules and responsibilities.

More work on tobacco-legislative instrument has been done, and extensive work has been carried out on Article 12, training, communication and awareness-creation among major schools, ministries and agencies. We look forward to introducing pictorial health warning by the close of this year, and strengthening tax legislation and enforcement we acknowledge the support from the Convention Secretariat, the African Bureau, the Bureau and CTFK. Thank you. Mr President, for the opportunity.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Ghana. The next speaker is Costa Rica, followed by Bangladesh.

Dr CASTRO-CÓRDOBA (Costa Rica):

Gracias, señor Presidente. Agradecemos a la Federación Rusa por acoger la COP 6 y a todos los delegados en esta bella ciudad, la cual esperamos todos en algún momento tener la oportunidad de conocer. Es un orgullo para nuestra región tener una representante en la Secretaría del Convenio en la persona de la Dra. Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva; le auguramos éxitos y le ofrecemos todo el apoyo de nuestro país en su gestión. Asimismo, agradecemos al Dr Haik Nikogosian que tuvimos la oportunidad de tener en nuestro país por su gestión durante 7 exitosos años a la cabeza de la Secretaría y esperamos que este nuevo periodo sea igual o más exitoso con la nueva secretaria. Somos un país de paz, somos un país sin ejército, que defiende la naturaleza, pero que tenía un retraso importante en la lucha antitabaco.

Desde la ratificación del Convenio Marco de Control del Tabaco en el año 2008, iniciamos una transformación del país, trabajamos fuertemente desde el apoyo de ONG de la región y países amigos para desarrollar nuestra ley, aprovechando los éxitos conocidos que ellos habían tenido, pero sobre todo también los fracasos que los países amigos nos mostraron, tratando de desarrollar un proyecto de ley que respondiera a las necesidades importantes que el país tenía en su momento.

Nuestra ley aprobada en marzo de 2012 tomó algunas iniciativas interesantes, creó espacios 100 % libres de humo de tabaco con cero tolerancia en muchos de los sitios, entre ellos, centros educativos, hoteles, bares y restaurantes donde no existe ningún espacio donde se permita fumar dentro o fuera de esas instalaciones, en las actividades de concentración masiva que se realizan en el país está prohibido fumar. No se permite el consumo de productos de tabaco en actividades culturales y deportivas; en los estadios nuestros de fútbol, que es un tema importante en el país, son 100 % libres de humo desde hace muchos años.

Creamos un impuesto de 80 centavos de dólar por cajetilla, pero hicimos una transformación: que no fuera un aumento de precios, sino que fuera un impuesto que fuera a financiar la lucha de control de tabaco. El 60 % de los recursos que esto produce van dirigidos a la Seguridad Social para que se encargue de atender a los pacientes, productos del consumo del tabaco y hacer rehabilitación de estas personas; el 20 % destinado al Ministerio de Salud para que lo destine a los aspectos de vigilancia y control de la ley; el 10 % para el Instituto Nacional de Farmacodependencia, que es el encargado de las actividades de educación y prevención; y el 10 % en una acción innovadora destinada a promover el deporte y la recreación como alternativa al tabaco.

Con dinero se puede luchar contra la industria; invitamos a los países a tomar en cuenta esta experiencia de convertir el aumento de precios propuesto por el Convenio en un impuesto para fortalecer la lucha antitabaco. Tenemos cero tolerancia a la publicidad, promoción y patrocinio de productos de tabaco. Tenemos legalmente 0 % de publicidad en los puntos de venta y estamos luchando contra las tácticas que la industria tabacalera está realizando en nuestro país para burlar esta regulación. Las advertencias sanitarias se iniciaron en Costa Rica el 19 de septiembre con imágenes en el 50 % de las caras principales, después de una gran lucha desarrollada contra la industria, que trató de atrasar esta implementación.

Utilizamos dos imágenes diferentes en cada cajetilla que hasta el momento no sabemos de otro país que lo haya hecho y esto ha sido muy efectivo para nosotros, porque nos ha permitido duplicar el

éxito de la información que se está haciendo llegar a la gente. A pesar de las presiones de la industria que usó diferentes mecanismos para esto, ya es un hecho en Costa Rica que todas las cajetillas que se venden tienen advertencias sanitarias. Estamos implementando investigación en temas propios de efecto del tabaco y estamos preparando técnica y académicamente a nuestros funcionarios para poder obtener los recursos que la ley provee para poder aplicar la ley y realizar las investigaciones necesarias.

Estamos desarrollando junto con el Ministerio de Hacienda de nuestro país la implementación de un sistema de control fiscal aduanero para garantizar la adecuada recolección de los impuestos y evitar la falsa aseveración de que hay productos de tabaco de contrabando. Nuestra experiencia es que lo que se presenta es productos de tabaco sin pago de impuestos y ya hemos sido amenazados con demandas a título personal por la industria por luchar en este tema y aseverar que no se están pagando los impuestos de manera adecuada. A iniciativa del Ministerio de Salud, se creó un grupo de trabajo intersectorial para la lucha contra el comercio ilícito y para que este grupo impulse la rectificación en la asamblea legislativa del Protocolo de Comercio Ilícito aprobado en la COP 5.

Tenemos pendiente la tarea de aumentar la participación de los gobiernos municipales en la lucha del control del tabaco. Para poder implementar las acciones, creamos una oficina del control de tabaco dentro del Ministerio de Salud encargada de coordinar las acciones internas y externas que el Ministerio de Salud realiza para aplicar la Ley 90/28 de manera efectiva. Esto nos permite tener una idea de los recursos invertidos y sobre todo de los recursos necesarios para una lucha efectiva contra el tabaco. Se requiere investigar adecuadamente el costo que para los países tienen las enfermedades asociadas al consumo de tabaco y consideramos que es un tema que los países debemos contar para poder demostrar el impacto real que el consumo de tabaco tiene en los servicios de salud.

En pocas palabras, cuánto pagamos en dolor y costos para que la industria tabacalera haga su negocio. Estamos desarrollando la fase final para el desarrollo de la encuesta GATS en nuestro país de consumo de tabaco en adultos, con el apoyo del CDC y la OPS, con fondos propios del país provistos por el impuesto, medida que nos dará un dato exacto de cuál es el impacto actual que tienen los programas que hemos desarrollado y, sobre todo, en qué estamos fallado y cuál es la línea futura que debemos desarrollar.

Nuestra siguiente meta será contar por primera vez con el plan nacional de control de tabaco como una política pública con los fondos necesarios para su implementación. Esperamos que con los nuevos rumbos de la Secretaría se incluyan aspectos como los mencionados acá por nuestro país y sobre todo en el uso y aumento del precio para realizar este control, como ya lo mencionamos, la evaluación de los costos económicos directos e indirectos que el consumo de tabaco tiene en las poblaciones, la cooperación entre los países y sobre todo el apoyo técnico más efectivo de las organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas a los países, orientando los programas nacionales para lograr mejorar la precisión de lo que estamos invirtiendo y detectar los puntos débiles. Señores delegados, cuando iniciamos la lucha de control de tabaco en Costa Rica éramos una ONG pequeña llamada Renata, que como decimos en nuestro país, empezó una lucha de lo que llamamos «Burro amarrado contra tigre suelto» (perdonen los traductores).

Sin embargo, la ley y el impuesto nos han permitido tener hoy un país fortalecido con un Ministerio de Salud que está liderando una lucha de tabaco que está siendo efectiva, como lo pudieron comprobar los participantes en el 4.º Congreso Latinoamericano del Caribe de Tabaco y Salud que se desarrolló este año en Costa Rica. Muchas gracias, buenas tardes.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Costa Rica. Distinguished delegates, please let me inform you that 30 minutes are left for our general debate, but unfortunately in my list there is a number of speakers, and 18 speakers are waiting for debate, so I need your special cooperation. Please make a statement more concisely, thank you very much. The next speaker is Bangladesh, followed by Kenya.

Ms QUADER (Bangladesh):

Mr President, distinguished delegates and colleagues, it is relevant to mention that Bangladesh is one of the countries to sign and ratify the FCTC in 2004 and 2005. Bangladesh is so committed to comply with the provisions of FCTC. Accordingly, our Government has not only enacted to work all laws in 2005, but the law was again amended in 2013. Our government is promise-bound to increase tax on tobacco products every year. It is indeed taking place. This year, a 1% health tax has been imposed on tobacco industries on products in addition to normal taxation. Bangladesh is also committed to put a complete stop to cigarette smuggling; we are actively pondering signing the Protocol on illicit trade. Mr President, Bangladesh counts upon the continued financial support to the lower-income group countries including Bangladesh, for attending the tobacco-related COP meeting. Finally, it is assumed that our tobacco law is gradually becoming strong enough to fight all the possible interventions from the tobacco industry and the users of tobacco. Our law is going to be comprehensive, along with pictorial warnings on cigarette packs. National and local task forces and committees are sincerely working to combat the menace of tobacco in line with the articles of FCTC. Thank you, Mr President.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Bangladesh. The next speaker is Kenya, followed by United Republic of Tanzania.

Dr KURGAT (Kenya):

Thank you, Mr President. The President of the sixth session of the COP, the Director-General of the WHO, Dr Margaret Chan, the Minister of Healthcare of the Russian Federation, honourable delegates, ladies and gentleman. Kenya would like to add our voice to the Parties in thanking the Russian Federation for hosting this conference. We also would like to appreciate the leadership and great contribution of Dr Haik Nikogosian to the tobacco control agenda, while he was the head of the FCTC Secretariat. In the same breath, we would like to congratulate the new Head of Secretariat, Dr Vera da Costa e Silva upon her appointment.

Mr President, Kenya reiterates its commitment to the FCTC treaty and the adopted Protocol so far. As a country we have made tremendous efforts to implement the provisions of the FCTC, as well as the Protocol, expressed and presented in various COPs. Our current major achievement is the successful implementation of the track-and-track system, as per the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products. We have signed the Protocol and the process of ratification is going on, and we are working on being the next Party to the Protocol. We appreciate the progress the Parties made in adopting the Protocol, and it is our desire that the Protocol comes into force at the earliest. To this end, we ask the Parties to hasten the process of ratification and call upon the other Parties to also expedite their effort in ratification to enable us achieve the objectives of this Article 15 of the FCTC.

Mr President, Kenya is intensifying its tobacco control initiatives. In 2014, we are expected to enact new regulations that require pictorial warnings and undertake a mass media campaign to raise awareness on the harmful effects of tobacco use and exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke, among other measures. Although Kenya has taken various measures to reduce tobacco use, it appreciates the need to coordinate global initiatives. In this regard, we urge our international partners, including Parties, to consider and hasten the implementation of joint-initiatives under the WHO FCTC and the Protocol. We also urge the Parties to respect and strengthen the coordination mechanisms at our national and regional levels, and provide support to facilitate the full implementation of the FCTC.

Mr President, in the same spirit, Kenya is calling upon COP6 to adapt the draft guidelines for the implementation of Article 6 of the FCTC on tax and price measures so as to reduce tobacco consumption especially in low- and middle-income countries that are most at risk of the tobacco epidemic.

In conclusion, Mr President, the FCTC is about to mark its first decade in force, and Kenya joins the African Region and international community in recognizing the progress made in the implementation of WHO FCTC, while aware of the emerging challenges including new products that threaten the progress made by the FCTC, and appreciating the decisions that need to be made to halt and reverse the vast tobacco epidemic, we assure you of our continued commitment and call upon the COP to renew its commitment to the well-being of our people as enshrined in our promise to current and future generations under the WHO FCTC. Thank you, thank you very much.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

The next speaker is Tanzania, followed by Ecuador.

Dr MHANDO (United Republic of Tanzania):

Thank you, Mr President. On behalf of the Tanzanian delegation, I would like to congratulate the Russian Federation for hosting this meeting and congratulate you, the President. I would also like to congratulate the newly-nominated President, and its Secretariat. As we are approaching 10 years, a lot has been done to implement FCTC. Tanzania has signed the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products and now we are processing ratification. The Tanzanian Government has raised tax on tobacco products by 28% as one of the efforts in the reduction in the disease burden of noncommunicable diseases. Tanzania therefore is committed to continue implementing the Convention, thank you very much.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much, Tanzania for your short statement. The next speaker is Ecuador, followed by Benin.

Dr ACURIO (Ecuador):

Gracias, señor Presidente. Quisiéramos primero agradecer a la Federación Rusa por la generosa acogida de este encuentro y felicitar también a la Sra. Vera e Silva por su nombramiento como secretaria de este Convenio. Ecuador quiere mostrar su apoyo a Uruguay en la lucha frente a la industria de tabaco y felicitar la firme intervención y decisión política de su gobierno, encabezada por su Ministra de Salud. Quisiéramos referirnos a los avances de Ecuador en el marco de la implementación de este convenio y comentar que nosotros hemos implementado casi todas las recomendaciones del Convenio Marco del control de tabaco y nos encontramos desarrollando constantemente nuevas acciones para garantizar la salud de la población. El control del tabaco en Ecuador es trabajado bajo una mirada integral sobre los riesgos que generan los consumos nocivos; esto es, alcohol, tabaco y alimentos no saludables. Y en ese marco se han implementado diferentes acciones basadas en la promoción de la salud, la prevención de la enfermedad y el control de los riesgos.

Algunas de estas acciones en cumplimiento del Convenio son la promulgación de la Ley Orgánica de Regulación y Control del Tabaco y su reglamento, que se presenta con el marco normativo rector de la política de control del tabaco del país y respaldadas en la misma se han ejecutado algunas acciones a resaltar. Primero, la implementación de advertencias sanitarias obligatorias en los productos del tabaco en un 60 % del empaque, incluido el cigarrillo electrónico. Hasta el momento se han implementado además tres rondas de advertencias sanitarias. La última se encuentra vigente a partir del 15 de julio del presente año.

La regulación para espacios 100 % libres de humo de tabaco, dejando explícito que no se puede consumir tabaco en ningún espacio público, incluidos bares, cafeterías, discotecas, instituciones educativas, parques y edificios. Actualmente, se realizan acciones nacionales de control de cumplimiento de esta regulación, por ejemplo, hemos prohibido totalmente la publicidad, promoción y patrocinio de productos de tabaco, y eso ha sido ratificado en la reciente Ley Orgánica de Comunicación aprobada en el año 2013.

El incremento de impuestos, a través de la implementación de un impuesto específico, que aumenta de manera progresiva cada año, llamado también Impuesto a los Consumos Especiales, entre el 2006 y el 2013 la recaudación generada por este impuesto aumentó un 50 %. Para el 2015, se tiene previsto un incremento nuevo del 10 % al empaque y consecuentemente un incremento del impuesto a las ventas por unidad, reduciendo con esto el acceso de los jóvenes y adolescentes al consumo de tabaco.

Hemos impulsado un conjunto de acciones de educación y comunicación dirigidas a la población a fin de evidenciar los riesgos del consumo del cigarrillo. En relación con la ratificación del Protocolo de Comercio Ilícito, este proceso se encuentra en su última instancia de aprobación. La Asamblea Nacional de Ecuador, el parlamento ecuatoriano, tiene que discutirlo y ratificarlo, luego de que contamos ya con el dictamen favorable por parte de la Corte Constitucional.

Para el 2015 hemos previsto dos acciones importantes; la primera, contar con el reglamento para la prohibición de la exposición de productos de tabaco en puntos de expendio; y segundo, implementar una nueva encuesta sobre el consumo de tabaco en adolescentes y jóvenes. Gracias, señor Presidente.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Ecuador. The next speaker is Benin, followed by Colombia.

Dr TOESSI (Benin):

Merci Monsieur le Président.

La délégation du Bénin se joint aux autres délégations pour remercier le docteur Haik Nikogosian pour le travail colossal qu'il a abattu à la tête du secrétariat. Nous souhaitons également la bienvenue et félicitons Mme Luiza da Costa pour sa détermination à continuer la lutte antitabac.

Dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de la Convention, le Bénin n'échappe pas à l'emprise et l'ingérence de l'industrie du tabac. C'est pourquoi l'union internationale contre le cancer du poumon et de la tuberculose a appuyé notre pays dans l'organisation d'une réunion de sensibilisation de haut niveau sur l'Article 5.3. Cette réunion est un succès malgré les tentatives de boycottage de l'industrie du tabac.

Au Bénin, la publicité ouverte est désormais interdite. Une nouvelle loi antitabac a été initiée et malgré les obstacles, elle poursuivra son chemin jusqu'au vote et sa promulgation.

L'administration publique du Bénin, monsieur le Président, manque cruellement de ressources pour organiser et la coordonner la lutte antitabac, face à une industrie forte qui va jusqu'à encourager la vente de cigarettes à la tige malgré la volonté politique affichée.

Le Bénin ne perd pas courage, et je souhaite plein succès à nos travaux pour assurer la survie des populations et une meilleure santé.

Merci Monsieur le Président.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Benin. The next speaker is Colombia, followed by Nigeria

Ms ZAMBRANO NARANJO (Colombia):

Gracias, señor Presidente. Queremos agradecer a la Federación Rusa por hospedar esta importante reunión y a la Secretaría reiterarle nuestra disposición para seguir apoyando y trabajando activamente en los distintos grupos de trabajo. Es importante comentar que en Colombia hemos registrado avances significativos en esta materia, derivados de una gran coordinación entre las instituciones a nivel nacional, siempre ajustados a nuestra legislación y en el ejercicio de nuestra soberanía, especialmente en temas como la regulación en publicidad, promoción y patrocinio, en advertencias sanitarias y en espacios libres de humo. Sin embargo, es importante para Colombia enfatizar nuestro interés en incrementar los esfuerzos en cooperación y trabajo regional para combatir el comercio ilícito de productos de tabaco y las graves consecuencias que ello tiene. Gracias, señor Presidente.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Colombia for your short statement. The next speaker is Nigeria, followed by Nepal.

Mr AWUTE (Nigeria):

Thank you, Mr President, for giving me the floor. Mr President, let me join the other speakers to also thank the Government of Russia and these people for their seriousness in hosting this event and for their hospitality. For you, Mr President, let me thank you and also congratulate you for your human disposition and leadership. Mr President, the honourable Minister of Health in his wisdom has considered it expedient to underscore the value and the importance of this conference: I'm talking about the honourable Minister of Health of Nigeria. By sending me, his Permanent Secretary, to participate at this conference personally, he also directed me to communicate his excitement and gratitude to the WHO family through the COP6, mainly for the inspiration and practical support that we have drawn as a country from WHO during the recent hysteria in the public induced by the Ebola virus disease, which was imported into the country. The success story of the containment of the Ebola virus disease cannot be complete without the mention of WHO, so that is the essence of our excitement.

Concerning the business before us here, Mr President, Nigeria is implementing consistently in a very aggressive manner the protocols on the core issues under the WHO FCTC. All official quarters in Nigeria have been declared and designated as tobacco-free areas. This is backed up by a very strong Government circular for compliance. There is also a National Smoking Cessation Committee inaugurated to have oversight responsibility on this mandate. The Nigerian Government has banned direct advertisement of tobacco in the media, and we achieved total compliance some five years ago. The Advertising Practitioner's Council of Nigeria has been in partnership with the health sector on this issue. It is also pertinent to state that a bill for an act is right now at the floor of the Nigerian Parliament. This is not to say that there has been no law. There had been a law that had been in existence in the form of a decree which does not appreciate the current embodiment of the bill for an act. This bill had also undergone a public hearing. This bill is in line with FCTC provisions and it prescribes measures for 100% smoke-free environments, control of advertising, control of promotional sponsorships, prohibition of access to young people, etc. This bill, when passed into law, will repeal the old Tobacco Decree 20 of 1990 Law of the Nigerian Federation, which is not as comprehensive as this new draft.

We are the first in the subregion to successfully conduct and release a Global Adult Tobacco Survey. Findings from the survey showed that 10% of men smoke cigarettes and only 1% of women, representing 0.5 million women in terms of population, smoke cigarettes. So the results of this survey show that we have 4.5 million adults that smoke cigarettes in Nigeria. As low as this may be, we still believe that it is a business for the industry still, and so it is also a threat to the foundation of our national health system, because of the threat to these 4.5 million – that may look little regarding the

population of Nigeria – but we still feel that it is a threat to the lives of those who smoke, and so our involvement in this regulation is very, very serious. We have been able to also evolve a strategy for reduction of demand that is in place right now. Price and tax measures to reduce demand for tobacco are also embedded in the act. Tobacco industry is also delisted from any Government development incentive. There is also an increase in taxation; this is also aimed at reducing demand. We have been able to also establish a fund called the “Tobacco Control Fund” which means that all levies, all charges and fines under tobacco control will be put into these accounts to help in the promotion of tobacco control activities. Mr Chair, for the sake of time, I want to thank you again, and stop here, thank you very much.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Nigeria. Distinguished delegates, in my list there are five Party speakers and three non-Party speakers (in total eight speakers are waiting to join our debate). With your special cooperation, we could speed up our general debate, so please let me allow us to extend by 10 minutes until 6.10 p.m. If you make a short statement, I think it is possible to finish our general debate today. I will try as much as I can. The next speaker is Nepal, followed by Niger.

Mr SHRESTHA (Nepal):

Thank you. Mr President, distinguished excellencies, delegates, ladies and gentleman, good evening to all. First of all I would like to thank and congratulate the Russian Federation for hosting such an important conference to curb the tobacco epidemic in the world. Nepal has pledged its commitment to curb the tobacco epidemic by signing the WHO FCTC on 3 December 2003, and ratifying it on 7 November 2006. Following ratification of the WHO FCTC, Nepal had endorsed a Tobacco Product (Control and Regulatory) Act 2011, with key provisions of: a complete ban on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship; a complete ban on tobacco use, both smoking and smokeless in all public places, workplaces and public transport; printing of 75% pictorial health warnings on cigarette and tobacco packs; and the provision of a health service tax for tobacco control.

Mr President, it should be noted that all of the above-mentioned features of the Tobacco Control Act have already entered into force. The Government of Nepal is in the process of adopting a national directive on Article 5.3 to prevent tobacco industry interference in public health policy development and implementation. We consider Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC to be very important to protect tobacco control from the vested interests of the tobacco industry. Nepal is gaining success in implementing the the fourth position to introduce 75% pictorial health warnings on cigarette and tobacco packs including Brunei and Canada, following the position of Thailand, Australia and Uruguay among the member countries. It has proven that it is effective not only in building awareness but also in controlling the illicit trade of tobacco products in Nepal. This shows that an effective implementation of tobacco control will significantly contribute to eliminating smuggling and illicit trade.

Several tobacco control awareness programmes have been carried out through different mass media, interpersonal and social mobilization methods to sensitize people about the dangers of smoking and tobacco use. The Ministry of Finance has increased excise duty and import tax correspondingly year-on-year in the national budget. The recently endorsed National Health Policy 2014 has spelled out the full implementation of the WHO FCTC, which is one of the top priority public health interventions.

We have made notable progress in line with the WHO FCTC over the years for the improvement of public health. This has been possible due to concerted efforts of the Government supported by WHO, the Union, development partners and agencies. We are thankful to all of them and expect more support and assistance from WHO, development partners and agencies for further implementation of the WHO FCTC. We are confident that this COP6 meeting will help Nepal and all member countries to extend implementation of the WHO FCTC. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Nepal. We are giving the floor to Niger. I must say that I have an additional seven names for the Parties. So it is almost impossible for us to finish the general debate today, so I want to close at 6.10 p.m. then the remaining speakers will have the chance to speak at the same place tomorrow morning from 10–11 a.m. at the plenary session. But in order to expedite our work, Committees A and B will start to work tomorrow morning, but Committee A should use the same room as the plenary session. So Committee A will start at 11 a.m. after finishing the general debate at the plenary session, but Committee B can start its work from 10 a.m. because the venue is different from the plenary session. So, the next speaker is Niger, followed by Madagascar.

Mr HAROU (Niger):

Merci Monsieur le Président.

Permettez-moi de vous féliciter, et de féliciter Mme da Costa ainsi que la Fédération de Russie pour avoir organisé cette réunion.

Notre ministre de la Santé devait être présent, mais n'a pas pu faire le déplacement malgré son attachement à cette lutte contre le tabac.

Le Niger a ratifié depuis 2005 la Convention-cadre, et une loi a été votée en 2006, suivie d'un décret d'application en 2008. Tout récemment, en décembre 2013, le ministère de la Santé publique a également signé deux arrêtés relatifs aux produits du tabac : le premier concerne l'ouverture et à l'exploitation des points de vente ; le second porte sur le conditionnement, la composition et l'étiquetage. Ces actions prouvent à quel point mon pays lutte contre le tabagisme.

Cependant, nous nous heurtons à un problème de moyens, et nous avons besoin d'aide et de partenaires pour nous appuyer dans notre lutte contre le tabac.

Nous avons déjà un réseau de parlementaires très actif, et une société civile qui se bat pour soutenir les autorités dans ce combat.

Voici ce que je tenais à exprimer au cours de cette conférence.

Merci Monsieur le Président.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Niger. The next speaker is Madagascar.

Dr ANDRIANOMENJANAHARINIRINA (Madagascar):

Merci Monsieur le Président.

Monsieur le Président, mesdames et messieurs les délégués, je voudrais tout d'abord joindre ma voix à celles de mes prédécesseurs pour féliciter la nomination de Mme da Silva à la tête du secrétariat de la Convention-cadre de l'OMS contre le tabac. Mes remerciements vont également à la Fédération de Russie pour son accueil chaleureux. Je voudrais aussi féliciter tous les états membres qui ont récemment ratifié la CCLAT : votre engagement à mettre en priorité la protection de la santé publique demande une volonté certaine.

Pour notre part, nous estimons que la mise en œuvre des dispositions stipulées dans la CCLAT, dans son ensemble, devrait cibler en priorité l'amélioration de l'état de santé de chaque être humain, et lutter contre la pauvreté. En effet, il n'est plus à démontrer que la consommation de tabac est plus élevée parmi les populations pauvres. Une grande partie des revenus familiaux sont ainsi destinés à l'achat du tabac, réduisant davantage le budget consacré à l'alimentation et aux soins.

Nous affirmons alors que tenir compte des engagements liés la lutte antitabac constitue une des stratégies pertinentes pour favoriser le développement.

Il faut également rappeler que l'instauration d'un partenariat technique stable, tant sur le plan national et régional qu'international, est nécessaire à la mise en œuvre de la CCLAT.

Effectivement, en ce qui concerne Madagascar, sur les huit directives sur l'application de la CCLAT, sept sont déjà en vigueur. Depuis 2010, nous intensifions nos efforts pour lutter contre le tabac, avec en premier lieu le changement des mises en garde sanitaires sur les unités de conditionnement des produits du tabac. Ensuite, nous avons instauré l'interdiction de fumer dans les lieux publics, intérieurs ou clos, qui constituent des lieux de travail et de transport. Enfin, nous avons renforcé les capacités des responsables des différentes institutions, journalistes et ONG œuvrant dans la lutte antitabac dans le cadre de l'Article 5.3.

Ceci ne pourrait avoir lieu sans le partenariat actif et efficace avec l'OMS par l'intermédiaire du projet Bloomberg 47 et de l'alliance contre le tabac en Afrique. J'adresse mes remerciements et ma reconnaissance à chaque partenaire pour l'assistance technique et financière que vous apportez à Madagascar pour appliquer la CCLAT.

Cependant, malgré ces avancées, l'industrie du tabac tend à affaiblir notre action en pratiquant un lobbying important auprès de nos décideurs, profitant de chaque renouvellement du gouvernement. Actuellement, la lutte antitabac est compromise à Madagascar, et prend la forme d'une lutte de conflits d'intérêt contre l'industrie du tabac. Ce combat nécessite une vigilance forte et des relations étroites avec tous les pays membres, les partenaires techniques et financiers, pour faire circuler l'information et détecter au plus tôt les stratégies de l'industrie du tabac, nous permettant ainsi de prendre des contre-mesures.

Pour conclure, Monsieur le Président, je répèterais que la mise en œuvre de la CCLAT dépend d'une volonté politique forte et d'un attachement continu pour la santé publique.

Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président, et vous souhaite beaucoup de succès dans vos travaux.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Madagascar. So it is time for us to close our plenary meeting today, as I mentioned before, as we could not finish our general debate. For tomorrow morning, the plenary session will start at 10 a.m. here and Committee A will meet in this room at 11 a.m.; on the other hand Committee B will meet on the first floor at 10 a.m. Before closing our plenary meeting, please let me give the floor to the Secretariat to announce the reception this evening.

Ms BENICHOU (Convention Secretariat):

Thank you, as you know the Ministry of Healthcare of the Russian Federation is kindly inviting the delegates to a reception which will start at 7 o'clock. So you will see the shuttles, which are ready to go at 6.30, starting from 6.30 p.m., at the level where the registration desk is – the floor below this one. At 6.30 the shuttles will be waiting for you. The other announcement is that we will have a short meeting of the Bureau immediately after the closure of this meeting and there will be a separate shuttle for the Bureau to go to the reception. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you for your announcement, so now I would like to declare the meeting adjourned. Thank you for your cooperation.

The meeting rose at 18:10

THRD PLENARY MEETING**Tuesday, 14 October 2014, at 10:20****President: Professor C.J. Moon (Republic of Korea)****1. ADDRESS BY THE HEAD OF THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT AND REPORT ON GLOBAL PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHO FCTC, FOLLOWED BY A GENERAL DEBATE**

The PRESIDENT:

Good morning, everybody. Allow me first to express our warm thanks to our hosts for the wonderful evening yesterday, thank you. We shall now continue our debate that we started yesterday on agenda item 3. I have the following on my list: United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Jamaica, Timor-Leste, Benin, Trinidad and Tobago, Mali, Democratic Republic of Korea, and Kazakhstan. I also have three non-Parties who requested the floor yesterday: Cuba, Zimbabwe and Switzerland. Before I give the floor I would like to remind delegates to provide the Secretariat with the written statement in advance during the COP, thank you. I would like to ask all speakers to try to be brief in their intervention, so that we can allow Committee A to start its work as soon as possible. I would like to give the floor for housekeeping.

Dr DA COSTA E SILVA (Head, Convention Secretariat):

Thank you very much, good morning to all. Just to inform you to please return the headsets each evening because they must be recharged. Secondly, document FCTC/COP/6/INF.DOC./1, an explanatory note on the workplan and budget, is available in all languages on the website. We are expecting the workplan and budget to be available as soon as possible, between today and tomorrow, thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Now I would like to start with United Arab Emirates. You have the floor.

Dr ALMAIDOOD (United Arab Emirates):

سيدي رئيس المؤتمر،
أسعد الله صباحكم بكل خير،
يسعدني أن أتقدم لكم بالشكر والتقدير لإتاحة الفرصة لنا اليوم للتحدث.
كما أتقدم بالشكر والتقدير للاتحاد الروسي على احتضان مؤتمر الأطراف السادس وعلى التنظيم المتميز لهذا المؤتمر. نحن
في دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، وبدعم كبير من القيادة الرشيدة لحكومة دولة الإمارات، نخطو خطوات كبيرة في
مكافحة التبغ، ونسعى لخفض استهلاك التبغ بكل أنواعه حيث يعد ذلك أحد الأهداف الاستراتيجية الهامة للأجندة الوطنية
2021 لدولة الإمارات. كما لا يخفى على سعادتكم أن الاتفاقية الإطارية لمنظمة الصحة العالمية قد رسمت لنا خارطة
طريق لتحقيق ذلك، وكذلك الدعم الكبير الذي نلقاه من كل من: المكتب التنفيذي لمجلس وزراء الصحة لدول مجلس التعاون

الخليجي والمكتب الإقليمي لدول شرق المتوسط. نحن في دولة الإمارات، حققنا الكثير من الإنجازات نستعرضها في عجلة:

الحظر التام للإعلان المباشر وغير المباشر لمنتجات التبغ والترويج لها

تحقيق نسبة 100% أماكن عامة خالية من التدخين

وضع الصور التحذيرية على منتجات التبغ

رفع الوعي بمخاطر استخدام التبغ بين أفراد المجتمع من خلال الحملات الوطنية المستمرة

خفض استهلاك التبغ بين الشباب من نسبة 19% في عام 2000 إلى 16% في عام 2013

توفير خدمات مساعدة الإقلاع عن التدخين

ودولة الإمارات وبكل فخر سوف تحتضن المؤتمر العالمي للصحة عن التبغ في دورته السادسة عشر في مارس 2015.

سيدي الرئيس، التحديات كبيرة، ولكن التطلع في الاستمرار في العمل المشترك على الصعيدين الإقليمي والدولي لتحقيق الأهداف السامية للاتفاقية الإطارية والحفاظ على الصحة العامة. ونتمنى أن يكون مؤتمر الأطراف السادس عشر للاتفاقية الإطارية لمكافحة التبغ تكون له بصمة لا تنسى في تاريخ الاتفاقية الإطارية لمكافحة التبغ. وشكراً.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, United Arab Emirates. The next speaker is Sudan, followed by Jamaica.

Dr HASSAN (Sudan):

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

شكراً سيدي الرئيس لإتاحة هذه الفرصة

وفي البدء يهنئ السودان الاتحاد الروسي على هذه الاستضافة المتميزة للمؤتمر السادس للأطراف. ونهنئ أيضاً السيدة كوستا دا سيلفا برئاسة أمانة الاتفاقية.

السودان منذ توقيعه على الاتفاقية في عام 2005، يبذل العديد من الجهود لتطبيق بنود الاتفاقية على المستوى الاتحادي والولائي. وبدأت هذه الجهود بإصدار قوانين وتشريعات لحظر التدخين في الأماكن العامة وأماكن العمل وفي المواصلات العامة. وأيضاً عمل السودان العديد من حملات التوعية من مخاطر التبغ على مختلف المستويات وخصوصاً بين أوساط الشباب لرفع الوعي تجاه مشكلة إدمان التبغ. كل الجهود المبذولة من السودان تؤدي إلى تقليل أعداد المدخنين ومتعاطي التبغ بكل أنواعه مما يؤدي إلى تقليل نسبة الوفيات من الأمراض غير السارية. وبالرغم من الصعوبات المتزايدة التي يواجهها السودان من أمراض معدية مثل الملاريا وغيرها مما يؤثر سلباً على تنفيذ جميع بنود الاتفاقية، بالتزامن مع كل دول الإقليم، يبذل السودان الكثير من الجهود حتى يتمكن من حماية غير المدخنين وحظر الترويج والإعلان عن منتجات التبغ ومن ضمنها الأرجيلة والسجائر الإلكترونية ومكافحة الإتجار غير المشروع بالتبغ وزيادة الضرائب المفروضة على التبغ.

وفي الختام، نتمنى من أمانة الاتفاقية المزيد من التعاون بين دول الإقليم لتحقيق جميع أهداف الاتفاقية. ونتمنى لكم كل التوفيق في هذا المؤتمر. والسلام عليكم.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much. So the next speaker is Jamaica, followed by Timor-Leste.

Ms DENNIS (Jamaica):

Thank you, Mr President and good morning to everyone. Let me join in the chorus of echoing the sentiment of the delegates, as was outlined this morning and yesterday in congratulating you, Mr President, in this important capacity. We also would like to thank the Russian Federation for organizing this meeting. We also want to thank Dr Haik Nikogosian for his tremendous efforts and his

outstanding work in implementing and promoting the FCTC and the Protocol. Congratulations to you also, Dr da Costa e Silva, as the new Head of the Convention Secretariat, and we look forward to working with you.

Now, in terms of what we have been able to achieve, we have implemented the public health tobacco control regulations of 2013 and when we were faced with challenges by the industry, the Convention Secretariat certainly stood by our side and was very ready to assist us in the challenge by the industry, which was later withdrawn. In overview of the regulations which ensured clarity the Convention Secretariat was also very instrumental and provided assistance in the amendment of the regulations which came into effect earlier this year

In raising awareness of Article 5.3 and support of the FCTC we also gained a tremendous support in assisting the Government to recognize the whole-of-government approach that was required and we again benefitted tremendously from the assistance of the Convention Secretariat in hosting a high-level ministerial meeting on tobacco and trade in April this year and later through the visit of Dr Nikogosian in meeting with Government officials upon the invitation of the honourable Minister of Health.

We would also like to outline that with the assistance of the Convention Secretariat, there was a joint needs assessment exercise which was conducted in August of this year. There are several gaps which have been identified, the report has been drafted, and we now look forward to the post-needs assessment activities as we seek to close those gaps and implement in a way that is envisaged by the FCTC.

Among the next steps for Jamaica is the implementation of comprehensive legislation to address all areas of the FCTC, primarily the ban of tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, which currently the existing legislative framework does not address as the regulations that we now have in place are really an implementation of Articles 18, 11 and 12, primarily.

Jamaica remains committed to constructively participating in the discussions of this COP and to adopt the measures to improve efforts to implement the FCTC and to develop strategies in keeping with the spirit of the FCTC, including the adoption of the Protocol. Thank you.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much, Jamaica. The next speaker is Timor-Leste.

DR SEIXAS DOS SANTOS (Timor-Leste):

Mr President and distinguished delegates. On behalf of the Timor-Leste representatives, I would like to appreciate and congratulate the excellent and comprehensive report from Dr Vera da Costa e Silva, the Head of the Secretariat, on global progress in implementation of the WHO FCTC. We would like to thank the Russian Government for hosting the sixth COP.

Mr President, Timor-Leste has high prevalence of tobacco use where the prevalence of current tobacco use for persons aged 15–49 years is 69% among men and 4.7% among women. On the other side, we are facing the double burden of diseases: communicable diseases such as TB continue to pose a public health challenge; on the other hand, noncommunicable diseases such as cardiovascular, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and cancer have emerged among the top 10 causes of mortality. Timor-Leste has ratified the WHO FCTC in December 2004. At a national level the Government has developed and implemented a law for health warning messages, fiscal control for tobacco manufacture and banning tobacco advertising since 2006.

We recognize that Timor-Leste has not done much in implementation of the WHO FCTC. However, the current Government has given the priority to control noncommunicable diseases, including control and prevention of tobacco use. With support from WHO Secretariat, Timor-Leste has developed and implemented a noncommunicable diseases strategy plan for 2014–2018, which includes the national target for relative reduction of tobacco use to 20% by 2025 and defined a specific strategy for tobacco control. The Ministry of Health has developed a comprehensive tobacco-related

legislation, in keeping with the commitments under the WHO FCTC, and enforce its implementation. While the human resource capacity still needs to be strengthened, to ensure that implementation of the integrated national action plan and tobacco legislation, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Head of the Secretariat and WHO country office for all efforts that have been provided to Timor-Leste and we strongly request continued support from WHO in this area. Finally, I would like to inform that the Ministry of Health of Timor-Leste is working with the relevant ministry and committed to signing the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, thank you.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much, Timor-Leste. The next speaker is Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr SHARMA (Trinidad and Tobago):

Thank you, Mr President. I wish on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, and my colleagues in attendance, to extend my sincerest appreciation to the Russian Federation for hosting COP6, and for the warm welcome we have received. Our country congratulates both the outgoing, and indeed the incoming Head of Convention Secretariat, Dr da Costa e Silva, and promises tireless work and collaboration with the new Secretariat.

As a small island state, Trinidad and Tobago has been one of the early signatories to the FCTC treaty and one of the first in the Caribbean region to now have tobacco control laws, which were passed in 2009, and tobacco control regulations, as of January 2014. Areas of accomplishment include among others: strong enforcement of no-smoking in all public places, and as of January 2015, there will be a legal requirement for manufacturers to have 50% of the surface of packaging covered with health messages and images. Over the past years, we have gradually reduced smoking prevalence which now stands at 20.4%. Prevalence rates among our young women, in the 15–19 age group continue to be on the rise which is of great concern to us. Our strongest efforts now target the student and the young population, and we hope to increase and decentralize smoking cessation programmes into the primary health-care system.

We continue, Mr President, to grapple with illicit trade since our island is very close to the South American mainland. Issues related to taxes, and pricing, surveillance, and e-cigarettes also continue to be of significant challenge for us.

Mr President, I appeal to the Secretariat for deeper consideration and assistance to small island states, especially in the Caribbean, in order to progress certain aspects of the FCTC. We wish the COP6 meeting every success and congratulate you, and thank you, Mr President, for this opportunity.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

So the next to speak is Democratic Republic of Korea, you have the floor.

Dr SUK HYON (Democratic People's Republic of Korea):

Thank you Mr President for providing us with the opportunity to take the floor. In DPR Korea we are modest enough to acknowledge that we do not have great news to boast of regarding tobacco control like many other successful countries. However, a series of progress has been witnessed so far in the last decade. For example, the decrease of the smoking prevalence among the male population from 52.3% in 2009, to 43.9% in 2013. The Ministry of Public Health is in the centre of the national FCTC implementation coordination mechanism, in strong collaboration with our relevant partners, such as the Education Ministry, Ministry of Food Commodities Production, the Customs Office and other NGOs, etc. In DPR Korea we have the advantage of no tobacco advertisement, no female

smokers and 100% tobacco-free education facilities, no smokeless tobacco and no e-cigarettes, and a low prevalence among the young population. So building on these advantages and incorporating our national tobacco control programme into the national noncommunicable disease prevention and control programme, we plan to strengthen the legal control and enforcement of the existing FCTC ratified tobacco control law, and expand the health education and advocacy for tobacco control, including the pictorial warnings on cigarette packages, increase of the price and tariff for imported tobacco and expanding the tobacco-free zones in public places. Once again, our appreciation goes to Mr President and the Secretariat's leadership for their valuable stewardship and excellent time management of this COP6. I would like to finish in Russian to thank the Russian Federation for their invitation to this beautiful Moscow. *Spasibo!* Thank you.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much, Democratic Republic of Korea. The next speaker is Ethiopia.

Dr ALAMNEH (Ethiopia):

Thank you, Mr President, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia would like to thank the Russian Federation for hosting the sixth session of the COP, and also thank WHO for inviting Ethiopia to participate in this conference just eight months after ratifying the tobacco Convention by our Federal Parliament.

The Ethiopian Government is strongly committed to tobacco control in Ethiopia and had been implementing a number of major intervention strategies before ratifying the Convention. Being cognizant of the devastating effects of tobacco use, the Government gave special emphasis to tobacco control in the national health policy in 1993, to discourage the acquisition of harmful habits such as cigarette smoking. Tobacco control has been one of the core functions of the regulatory sector and a mandate is clearly given in the proclamation 661/2009 to the food and medicine regulatory authority.

Ethiopia has made major achievements so as to protect public health through awareness campaigns in the media, different training including the parliamentarians, in-school and out-of-school use, and celebrating no-tobacco day every year in the last two decades, conducting high-level stakeholders advocacy, conducting a global use tobacco survey and developing legislations, regulations and establishment of national coordination for tobacco control committee. All the required requirements have been included in our regulatory legislations, including protection from exposure to tobacco smoke, regulation of the content for tobacco products, regulation of tobacco product disclosures, packaging and labelling of tobacco products, tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, illicit trade in tobacco products, sales to and by minors, and the protection of minors from tobacco products.

We have observed the challenges of limited education, communication, training and public awareness, limited coordination and collaboration with national and international organizations, limited international experience in support resource limitation, and limited capacity of enforcement mechanisms, structures and infrastructures. We need international assistance in strengthening enforcement of mechanisms and activities, implementing the FCTC, national laws, and conducting different surveys. We appreciate WHO's support to Ethiopia to remind to consider the tobacco taxation, so as to minimize the consumption of tobacco. We also expect the WHO's assistance in the areas of tobacco use survey, and the status of tobacco use in Ethiopia, which will enable us to develop a better tobacco control strategy. Thank you again for all assistance delivered to Ethiopia so far. Thank you.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Ethiopia. The next speaker is Zambia.

Dr MAKASA (Zambia):

Thank you very much, Mr President. I speak on behalf of the African Region and report that my region has taken note of your appeal to delegations to keep the interventions brief and to the point, for the sake of time, so that we can successfully conclude and finish the agenda items.

Secondly, Mr President, I wish to bring to your attention from our coordination meeting today, that my region has a concern on the absence of the French version of the documents containing the proposed workplan and budget for the next biennium. As you know, Mr President, a big part of my region communicates in the French language and will therefore find it impossible to fully engage on this important matter. We therefore appeal to your able office Mr President, to ensure that this COP only discusses these issues when the French version is made available, I thank you.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much, Zambia. May I ask if there is any delegation who wishes to speak now? I would like to give the floor to the Head of Convention Secretariat.

Dr DA COSTA E SILVA (Head, Convention Secretariat):

I would like to respond to the African Region with some information. We would like to inform you that explanatory notes for the workplan and budget are available in all six languages. They were made available just 20 minutes ago, and the workplan and budget was available in the six languages, but then we removed five languages because we made a small amendment in numbers, and we will most probably have it available today, or at the latest tomorrow, in all six languages. Thank you very much, and sorry about that.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you to the Secretariat for your response. Now, let me give the floor to the observers. I will start with State non-Parties, followed by IGOs, and then by NGOs. The first speaker of State non-Party is the delegation of Cuba, Cuba you have the floor.

Mr LOZADO GARCIA (Cuba):

Señor Presidente, excelencias. Ante todo, deseo transmitirles el fraternal saludo del gobierno y pueblo de Cuba. Uno de los objetivos primordiales de la política del Estado y el Gobierno cubano es precisamente la constante elevación del nivel de salud y la calidad de vida de la población cubana, lo cual se expresa de manera fehaciente en la Constitución de la República del 24 de febrero de 1976, en la Ley de Salud Pública y en numerosas disposiciones que son parte de nuestro sistema jurídico. El sistema de salud cubano universal, gratuito, accesible a toda la población y basado en la atención primaria registra resultados satisfactorios.

Varios indicadores dan fe de ello. En el año 2013, se logró una tasa de mortalidad infantil de 4,2 por cada 1000 nacidos vivos. Durante 5 años consecutivos se ha mantenido esta tasa por debajo de 5. En menores de 5 años, la mortalidad fue de 5,7 por cada 1000 nacidos vivos y la mortalidad materna de 38,9 por cada 100 000 nacidos vivos, de las más bajas de América Latina. La esperanza de vida al nacer fue de 78,4 años, en general, para el periodo 2011-2013. En las mujeres fue de 80,4 años y en los hombres de 76,5 años. La epidemia del VIH (SIDA) tiene una prevalencia de 0,1 % en la población de 15 a 49 años de edad, garantizándose el tratamiento con antiretroviral a todos los que lo necesitan. El

programa de inmunización protege contra 18 enfermedades, con una cobertura de vacunación prácticamente completa en el niño menor de 1 año. Están eliminadas 14 enfermedades infecciosas y otras 9 no constituyen problemas de salud por tener tasas de incidencia menores de 0,1 por 100 000 habitantes. En cuanto a la cooperación y ayuda al desarrollo, Cuba mantiene hoy más de 39 000 trabajadores de la salud en 66 países y trabaja en la formación de 100 000 médicos para países hermanos.

El proyecto de la Escuela Latinoamericana de Medicina ha formado en Cuba más de 11 000 médicos de 123 naciones del mundo. El país produce el 66 % de los medicamentos que consume y toda la población tiene acceso a ellos de manera estable y a precios razonables. La continuidad del proceso de transformaciones necesarias del sector ha posibilitado la reorganización de las estructuras del sistema de salud y su consolidación, perfeccionando el ordenamiento laboral e institucional, la eficiencia y calidad de los servicios, y las acciones para elevar el estado de salud de la población cubana. Cabe señalar que estos avances se han logrado a pesar del injusto bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto por el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América durante más de 50 años, que pese al rechazo de la comunidad internacional en la Asamblea General de la ONU no solo se mantiene, sino que se recrudece con medidas cada vez más absurdas. El impacto económico de esta política hostil en los servicios de salud de Cuba desde su implantación en 1962 hasta la fecha asciende a 2464 millones de dólares.

El dolor y el sufrimiento causado a las familias cubanas no son cuantificables. En materia de control del tabaquismo, se han dado pasos importantes y se continúa trabajando. A partir del año 2003 se estableció que las cajetillas de cigarrillos tuvieran mensajes en su cara principal que ocupen el 60 % de su superficie y los mensajes se rotan de forma bienal. En el 2005 se estableció la prohibición de fumar en espacios cerrados y la venta de cigarrillos a menores de 18 años. En ese mismo año se crearon las consultas de cesación de tabaquismo en cada uno de los 499 policlínicos con que cuenta el país y se ofrece consejería cara a cara y por vía telefónica. Nuestra población tiene un amplio acceso a los programas integrales de prevención y control del tabaquismo. No se realiza publicidad de los productos de tabaco a través de los medios masivos de comunicación.

Además, se desarrollan otras actividades anualmente como son jornadas científicas sobre efectos del tabaquismo, celebración del Día Mundial sin Fumar, con participación intersectorial y comunitaria. El Ministerio de Educación tiene en su agenda el tema de estudio del tabaquismo en todos los niveles de enseñanza. Se concede gran importancia a la labor con los niños y jóvenes para evitar la iniciación al consumo de cigarrillos. Se trabaja estrechamente con los medios de comunicación masiva para promover y fortalecer la concientización del público acerca de los efectos del tabaquismo a través de spots publicitarios, artículos, entrevistas y mensajes radiales. Como resultado del trabajo realizado desde los años 70 del pasado siglo y según encuestas realizadas en el año 2010, la prevalencia del tabaquismo en Cuba en personas de 15 años y más, que en el año 1978 era de 68,9 %, disminuyó hasta un 24,7 %.

Muchos de los preceptos del Convenio Marco para el Control del Tabaco ya están incorporados en nuestra normativa jurídica, a través de la actividad de diversos organismos, además del Ministerio de Salud Pública. Es el caso del Ministerio de Interior y del Ministerio de Educación. Además, otros aspectos contenidos en el Convenio ya se han estado ejecutando a través de las funciones y atribuciones mismas del Ministerio de Salud Pública. Entre las cuales se destaca el importante error ejercido por la atención primaria de salud. Esta incluye la participación de la comunidad, a través de la cual se combinan eficazmente las acciones de promoción, prevención, cura y rehabilitación mediante diferentes programas, cuyos principales exponentes son el Programa de Control de Enfermedades Crónicas no Transmisibles y el Programa Nacional de Prevención y Control del Tabaquismo, así como al actuación de centros e instituciones especializadas como es el caso del Centro Nacional de Promoción y Educación para la Salud y el Registro Sanitario del Instituto Nacional de Higiene de los Alimentos. Excelencias, estas acciones demuestran la convicción del gobierno cubano de la necesidad de adoptar medidas encaminadas a disminuir el consumo de los productos de tabaco y proteger de manera especial a los más jóvenes para evitar que se inicien en este perjudicial hábito.

No obstante, teniendo en cuenta el interés de abordar los problemas de salud desde un enfoque multisectorial, las medidas de control del tabaco vinculadas a la esfera del comercio o a la tributaria deberán basarse en consideraciones científicas, técnicas y económicas, actuales y pertinentes que

demuestren su efectividad sobre los objetivos de salud propuestos según lo estipula el Convenio Marco en su preámbulo. Asimismo, no deberán socavar obligaciones contraídas por las partes en virtud de otros acuerdos multilaterales. Debe respetarse el derecho soberano de las partes a decidir y establecer sus políticas impositivas, según sus necesidades de desarrollo e intereses sociales y culturales, tal como establece el artículo 6.2 del Convenio Marco.

Las recomendaciones sobre los artículos 17 y 18 deben tener en cuenta las necesidades y políticas de desarrollo de los países productores subdesarrollados, cuyas economías dependen de manera importante de estos productos y tienen insuficiente diversificación productiva y falta de recursos financieros. El diseño de cualquier política encaminada a promover las alternativas económicamente viables al cultivo de tabaco deberá consultarse ampliamente con agricultores, trabajadores y expertos agrícolas para comprender íntegramente la viabilidad a largo plazo y las repercusiones potenciales de las opciones que se analicen. Los productores de tabaco no deberán ser forzados a abandonar el cultivo de tabaco, como consecuencia de la eliminación de políticas de apoyo u otras, considerando que es un medio de subsistencia para muchos agricultores pobres y vulnerables. El cultivo del tabaco es milenario y forma parte de la identidad cultural y de las tradiciones de muchos pueblos. Por consiguiente, la sustitución de este cultivo se debe llevar a cabo de manera gradual y exclusivamente por la vía de la educación y el convencimiento de los trabajadores tabacaleros, no mediante presiones ni hostigamiento.

El cultivo de tabaco no provoca un daño medioambiental mayor o diferente de lo ocasionado por muchos otros productos agrícolas. Las emisiones de este cultivo son similares a las de otros productos agrícolas e insignificantes comparadas con las de grandes procesos industriales contaminantes en los países desarrollados, sobre los cuales no se ha podido ni siquiera lograr la cuantificación de los compromisos de reducción de emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero dentro del segundo periodo del Protocolo de Kioto. Cuba reitera su firme compromiso con la salud, tanto a nivel nacional como en el plano de operación con otros países, así como su disposición a intercambiar experiencias exitosas en la lucha contra el tabaquismo. Muchas gracias.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Cuba. I would like to remind you again that the individual state time limit is five minutes, so please I would like to request your cooperation on this matter. The next speaker is Zimbabwe, followed by Switzerland.

Mr KATSANDE (Zimbabwe):

Thank you, Mr President. I'm delighted to intervene at this sixth session of the COP on behalf of the Republic of Zimbabwe. I would like first of all on behalf of my delegation, to thank the Government of the Russian Federation for its warm hospitality. I would also wish to congratulate you, Mr President, on your election as the President of this session. In the same vein, whilst appreciating the leadership exhibited by Dr Haik Nikogosian in pursuit of the FCTC agenda, let me congratulate the new Head of the Secretariat, Dr Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva, on her appointment. I'm convinced that this COP6 will run smoothly and yield positive outcomes. Mr President, Zimbabwe has been closely following discussions within the WHO FCTC, although it was not yet a member of the Convention. However, today, I'm pleased to advise that on the 16th of July 2014, his Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, President Robert Gabriel Mugabe, signed the accession documents and Zimbabwe will therefore be a full member well before COP7. This act demonstrates the importance with which Zimbabwe regards the work of the Convention.

Mr President, Zimbabwe supports the aims and objectives of the WHO FCTC. To this end, Zimbabwe instituted statutory instrument 264/2002, the Public Health Tobacco Control Regulations, which provide for the following, among other things:

- (1) control of smoking in public premises and public transport,
- (2) mandatory erection of no-smoking signs in public premises,

- (3) prohibition of trading tobacco products to minors,
- (4) mandatory inscription of health warning messages in English on all imported tobacco products sold in Zimbabwe,
- (5) control of advertising and promotion of tobacco products, including institution of public health warnings on cigarette packaging, and
- (6) establishment of a tobacco control committee whose duties include recommending policies and regulations on tobacco control.

Zimbabwe supports the draft guidelines on Article 6, in view of the recognition of the principle of fiscal sovereignty of States. Revenue needs and prioritization are imperatives of developing countries and different circumstances need to be appreciated. Zimbabwe, however, has concerns with efforts to exclude tobacco from international trade and investment agreements. Our conviction is that free trade agreements and bilateral investment treaties should not be seen as obstacles to public health regulations as they also have public health provisions.

The objectives of finding economically viable alternative crops to tobacco are highly appreciated. However, for sustainability, the livelihoods of farmers and their local communities should be given priority in any such policy development. To this end, any move to such alternative crops must be as a result of evidence-based, well-funded and workable solutions based on the realities of the domestic markets and how they relate to regional and international markets. Policies must be locally relevant and be contextualized in a smooth, gradual transition process to alternative crops. This cannot be achieved overnight, because we believe that the whole value chain has a contribution in making the policy relevant and workable. Mr President, once again I wish to thank you for this opportunity.

My delegation looks forward with interest to the discussions and outcomes of COP6, I thank you.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Zimbabwe. The next speaker is Switzerland. Switzerland, you have the floor.

Mr VON KESSEL (Switzerland):

Monsieur le Président, la Suisse attache une grande importance à la prévention des méfaits du tabac, et à cet égard se montre très satisfaite de pouvoir suivre ces prochains jours, même si ce n'est qu'à titre d'observateur, les débats de cette sixième Conférence des Parties.

Selon nos estimations, le tabagisme cause en Suisse près de 9 000 décès par an, dont 41 % sont liés à des maladies cardio-vasculaires, 41 % à des cancers, et 18 % à des maladies des voies respiratoires. La consommation de tabac représente ainsi la première cause évitable de décès en Suisse.

Concernant la Convention-cadre de l'OMS pour la lutte antitabac, nous aimerions rappeler que la Suisse l'a signée et que sa ratification demeure un objectif du conseil fédéral. Conformément à une pratique établie, la Suisse ne ratifie toutefois une Convention internationale qu'après avoir adapté sa législation nationale.

Le droit suisse satisfait déjà aujourd'hui à de nombreuses exigences de la Convention, par exemple en matière de protection contre la fumée passive, d'imposition sur le tabac, ou de mise en garde pictographique sur les paquets de cigarettes.

Par contre, des adaptations seront encore nécessaires en ce qui concerne la réglementation de la publicité, de la promotion et du parrainage, ainsi que l'interdiction de la vente de produits du tabac aux mineurs.

Un projet de loi national sur les produits du tabac a été récemment élaboré en Suisse. Il couvre également les cigarettes électroniques. Dans sa version actuelle, ce projet est compatible avec les exigences découlant de la Convention, et il devrait permettre, dans un deuxième temps, sa ratification. Conformément à la procédure législative applicable, le projet de loi a été mis en consultation auprès

des milieux intéressés. De nombreux commentaires ont été reçus et sont actuellement examinés. Le projet de loi sera ensuite transmis au parlement, qui en débattrá.

Nous nous réjouissons de pouvoir suivre les débats de ces prochains jours.

Je vous remercie.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Switzerland. Now I would like to give the floor to IGOs: are there any IGOs who wish to speak now? I see none. So I would like to give the floor to the NGOs, are there any NGOs who wish speak now? I see none. Before I close the list of speakers, I would like to ask if any delegation would like to speak? Viet Nam, you have the floor.

Mr NGUYEN (Viet Nam):

Thank you, Chair. We appreciate the speakers who have shared information about tobacco control, as well as their achievements in their operations for the Convention. However, on behalf of the Viet Nam delegation, we would like to share our experiences during years of implementing some articles of the FCTC. We would like to especially speak about price and tax to reduce the demand for tobacco. Basically Viet Nam has consented to the guiding principles of implementation of Article 6 of the Framework Convention. However, it is necessary to emphasize in principle that each country should have its own sovereignty in setting price and tax rates and Parties should not interfere in the planning of price and tax increase in each country. At the same time, we see a certain relationship between price increase and illicit tobacco increase, and assess the effect of tax increases with policies of poverty reduction for tobacco growers. As a matter of fact, many countries increased the tax excise, resulting in tobacco smuggling increases.

Regarding the recommendation of the guidelines on implementation of Article 6 on price and tax measures to reduce the demand for tobacco, although being recorded as a recommendation, some of this recommendations actually contain commitments and mandatory characteristics that relate to the sovereign regulation of the country's domestic tax or exceed the ability of Viet Nam especially to enforce at present due to limited capacity and existing infrastructure. In view of the above the Viet Nam delegation's comment is not to agree with the commitments of mandatory attributes, which was only regarded as recommended, or required to implement, such as in sections 3.1, 3.2 and 4.4, namely: recommendation in section 3.1 of structure of tobacco tax: "Parties should implement the simplest and most efficient system that meets their public health and fiscal needs, and take into account their national circumstances. Parties should consider implementing specific and mixed-excise systems with a minimum specific tax floor, as this system has a considerable advantage over purely ad valorem systems". In current conditions, the conversion of tobacco tax system to specified excise or mixed-specific and ad valorem excise taxes present both advantages and disadvantages, namely: (1) the advantage is that it reduces the incidence of low-grade tobacco and matches with the recommendation of WHO and the law on tobacco; (2) the disadvantage is it is complicated and hard to ensure fair competition due to regulating the rate and extent of the impact of the tobacco tax, and of the tobacco selling price. That means that it is restricting the competitiveness of domestic firms. The rate of regulatory...

The PRESIDENT:

Excuse me, please let me interrupt you, I'm very sorry. What you mentioned is for the committees, but this is the general debate. If you'd allow me to do that, I would like to propose that you can have a good intervention at the committee. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

The next speaker is Bhutan.

Ms ZAM (Bhutan):

Good morning and thank you. Firstly let me join the others in thanking the Russian Federation for hosting COP6 and I would also like to join the others in expressing appreciation to the outgoing President for the leadership that he has provided, and also welcome and give our best wishes to the incoming President and we assure the President of our full support. I took the floor just to reiterate Bhutan's commitment to the implementation of the FCTC. I think Bhutan is one of the earliest countries in the world to have been the signatory to the FCTC and since then we have also enacted an act. As a matter of fact, recently – as late as July 2014 – the act has undergone amendment and it was done largely to ensure its alignment to the WHO FCTC. Basically the act is an indication of the Government's strong political will, and also the Government's desire to ensure that people's physical health and well-being are at the foremost, as it is an important element for the achievement of our national aspiration of ensuring Gross National Happiness, and towards this end the Ministry of Health has also been very, very active. It has conducted campaigns in education and communication, raising public awareness of harms of tobacco use, so like I said this is largely just to put on record our continued and sustained efforts to ensure the successful implementation of the WHO FCTC. Thank you.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Bhutan. The next speaker is Gabon.

Dr MBUNGU MABIALA (Gabon):

Merci beaucoup Monsieur le Président.

Le Gabon tient à remercier la Fédération de Russie d'avoir hébergé les présentes assises. Nous félicitons également le président de cette conférence, ainsi que l'ancien et le nouveau chef du secrétariat de la Convention.

Le Gabon a signé la Convention-cadre de l'OMS pour la lutte antitabac depuis 2003, mais il a fallu attendre l'année 2009 pour la ratifier. Depuis lors, notre pays a accompli des progrès, en conformité avec les recommandations de la Convention.

Afin de ne plus être confrontées aux problèmes survenus pendant la ratification de la Convention, les autorités gabonaises ont tout mis en œuvre pour accélérer la ratification du protocole pour l'élimination du commerce illicite des produits du tabac. Nous espérons que nos amis traditionnels, qui nous appuient déjà dans la lutte antitabac, nous aideront également à mettre en œuvre ce protocole.

Voilà ce que nous avons à déclarer, Monsieur le Président.

Je vous remercie.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Gabon. May I give the floor to the Secretariat to provide some information for our delegations.

Dr DA COSTA E SILVA (Head, Convention Secretariat):

Thank you, Mr President. Just to inform you that the workplan and budget is available in French on the website. All the documents are available in English and French and printed copies will be available of both documents (the workplan and budget and explanatory note), thank you very much Mr President.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you. If there is no more interventions I would like to conclude our consideration of Agenda Item 3. The meeting of the plenary is adjourned. As I mentioned yesterday, the meeting of Committee A will be held here immediately and I would like to invite the chair of Committee A to come to the podium. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

The meeting rose at 11:15

FOURTH PLENARY MEETING**Wednesday, 15 October 2014, at 10:15****President: Professor C.J. Moon (Republic of Korea)****1. CREDENTIALS OF PARTICIPANTS**

The PRESIDENT:

Good morning, distinguished delegates. This morning we have a very short plenary session. We shall consider the report on credentials and the first report of Committee A. If there are no objections, I would like to start with item 1.2, the report on credentials, which is contained in document FCTC/COP/6/2. This report has been prepared following the review of the credentials of the Parties by the Bureau at its meeting yesterday in accordance with Rule 19 of the Rules of Procedure. Are there any objections to adopting the recommendations contained in this report? I see none. It is so decided.

2. FIRST REPORT OF COMMITTEE A

The PRESIDENT:

The next agenda item is the adoption of the progress report of Committee A. Committee A had a good start yesterday. I would like to invite the Chairperson of Committee A, Dr Nuntavarn Vichit-Vadakan, to report on the progress of work achieved so far. Thank you Dr Vichit-Vadakan, you have the floor. May I ask you to report on the progress of the work yesterday?

Dr VICHIT-VADAKAN (Thailand):

Thank you, Mr President and good morning everyone. I wish to happily report that we actually have adopted the guidelines for the implementation of Article 6 of the WHO FCTC and I think it went quite smoothly. We have a great collaboration among the Parties and we have also made some progress on the other agenda items, but I want to highlight that we did adopt these guidelines after many years of work by countless people, thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Dr Vichit-Vadakan. Are there any comments on the report of Committee A? I see none. Can I take it that the COP approves the report of Committee A, contained in document FCTC/COP/6/A/CR/1? That appears to be the case, the report of Committee A is therefore approved and the decision in the document is so adopted.

(Applause)

This concludes our programme of work for the morning plenary session and both committees will now meet to continue their work. I wish you all a good day, thank you very much.

The meeting rose at 10:20

FIFTH PLENARY MEETING**Saturday, 18 October 2014, at 11:55****President: Professor C.J. Moon (Republic of Korea)****1. CREDENTIALS OF PARTICIPANTS**

The PRESIDENT:

Good morning, distinguished delegates. We have had a very intense and productive week and a great deal of work has been done. This morning we shall consider the reports of Committees A and B followed by agenda item 6.4 on the workplan and budget, the proposed Moscow Declaration, agenda item 7 on the date and venue of the next COP, agenda item 8 on the election of the next Bureau, and finally we will end our work with consideration of agenda item 9, when we will adopt the provisional report of this session. We understand that there are many concerns regarding translation issues in both the decisions and our report. The translation issues may be in a number of languages including, but not limited to: Spanish, Chinese and French. The Secretariat has informed me that all requests regarding translation should be translated to the Secretariat in writing, by email; copfctc@who.int is the correct address for this. All translation corrections will be carefully addressed by the Secretariat and the translation unit. I hope this information will be acceptable and will allow us to proceed without delegations taking the floor on translation matters. I thank the delegations for their cooperation in this regard. Considering that we only have a half-day to make all decisions, and people are returning home today, I urge full support from Parties in order to expedite their work. Before that, allow me to inform you of the status of credentials of the participants.

Since our last report, formal credentials have been received from Ecuador, Estonia, Lithuania and the United Republic of Tanzania, Parties which had previously submitted provisional credentials. It has not been feasible to convene the Bureau to examine the former credentials, but I have examined them and have found them to be in conformity with the Rules of Procedure. I would therefore recommend to the Conference that Ecuador, Estonia, Lithuania and United Republic of Tanzania be accepted as having submitted formal credentials. Does the Conference agree with this procedure? I see no objection, so it is so decided.

2. SECOND REPORT OF COMMITTEE A

The PRESIDENT:

We shall move to the report of Committee A, which can be found in the document FCTC/COP/6/A/R/2. The report contains nine decisions proposed for adoption by the COP. Welcome, Dr Nuntavarn Vichit-Vadakan. May I invite Dr Vichit-Vadakan, Chair of Committee A, to present the report of Committee A, which can be found in document FCTC/COP/6/A/R/2? Dr Vichit-Vadakan, you have the floor.

Dr VICHIT-VADAKAN (Thailand):

Thank you, Mr President, and I do apologise for being late. I had again a bilateral negotiation. I really wish to thank our Parties who really cooperated very well in Committee A and were able to

complete the work on all agenda items within time with no evening session, so thank you and please give yourself a hand.

(Applause)

Mr President, we managed to agree on:

- agenda item 4.1: the status of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products;
- item 4.3: implementation of Article 19 of the WHO FCTC (*Liability*);
- item 4.4.1: smokeless tobacco products;
- item 4.4.2: electronic nicotine delivery systems including electronic cigarettes;
- item 4.4.3: control and prevention of waterpipe tobacco products;
- item 4.5: economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing;
- item 4.6: further development of the partial guidelines for implementation of Articles 9 and 10;
- item 4.7: impact assessment of the WHO FCTC;
- item 4.8: implementation of Article 5.3.

Mr President, thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Dr Vichit-Vadakan. Are there any comments on the report of Committee A? I see none. Can I take it that the COP approves the report of Committee A, contained in document FCTC/COP/6/A/R/2? That appears to be the case. The report of Committee A is therefore approved.

Dr VICHIT-VADAKAN (Thailand):

I would like to make the following remarks in relation to document FCTC/COP/6/ A/R/2 of 18 October, entitled “the second report of Committee A”. In the annex contained in the draft policy options and recommendations on Articles 17 and 18, there’s one addition to be made to reflect the decision of Committee A. On page 14, under Principle 2, the second sentence of the second paragraph should read:

“To better address these and other aspects, the involvement of farmers in the decision-making process concerning Articles 17 and 18 should be encouraged by providing adequate channels for them to voice their needs and concerns.”

A few other formatting edits to the text will be done but these are not content-related. This was agreed upon in Committee A but it did not reflect in the document so we just want to highlight that that will be added for the final document, thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you for your kind additional explanation. So, may I propose that the report of Committee A is approved? Brazil, you have the floor.

Mr CUENCA (Brazil):

Mr Chairman, excuse me. Now there is only one very, very precise comment. It is also in the same annex. On page 11, item 1.1, the second paragraph, second line. There is a verb missing there. So the sentence would be:

“Ten years ago, it was predicted that any reduction in the number of smokers and in total tobacco consumption over the next 20 years would gradually decrease.”

We need “decrease” at the end of that sentence; currently there is no verb in that sentence.

The PRESIDENT:

May I give the floor to the Chair of Committee A for a response?

Dr VICHIT-VADAKAN (Thailand):

Yes, Brazil, I think that was an error, thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Is there any other comment on the report of Committee A? If not, I would like to approve the report of Committee A and the decisions contained therein are therefore adopted with the amendment proposed by Brazil.

(Applause)

3. MOSCOW DECLARATION

The PRESIDENT:

I shall now turn to the report of Committee B, contained in document FCTC/COP/6/B/R/1. The document contains 10 decisions, but we have to wait a little bit for Mr Andrew Black. Allow me first, as Mr Black is not ready to report now, so may I move to the Moscow Declaration before he is ready to come here? I would like to thank the delegation of the Russian Federation for proposing a Moscow Declaration. I understand the text presented to us reflects the outcome of consultation with regional groups. I would like to invite the Russian Delegation to present the Declaration. Russian Delegation, you have the floor.

Dr SALAGAY (Russian Federation):

Спасибо, уважаемый господин Председатель, глубоко уважаемые коллеги.

Действительно, был подготовлен проект декларации, которая претендует на то, чтобы быть итоговой. Он был распространен 2 дня назад среди регионов. В течение этих дней мы, посредством электронной почты, получали комментарии по этой декларации, и тот вариант, который сейчас представлен вам для оценки, включает в себя те замечания, которые были переданы нам регионами, принимавшими участие в обсуждении этой декларации. Она содержит, на наш взгляд, несколько ключевых моментов, она отражает связь борьбы с табаком и победы над неинфекционными заболеваниями, учитывает необходимость защиты наиболее уязвимых групп населения, учета вновь появляющихся табачных изделий и средств доставки никотина и некоторые другие, не менее важные вопросы. Поэтому мы бы призвали стороны рассмотреть возможность принятия этой декларации. Спасибо.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you for your remarks. Is there any objection to adopting the Moscow Declaration? I see none, it is so decided.

(Applause)

Yes, I found a flag from Timor-Leste.

Dr SEIXAS DOS SANTOS (Timor-Leste):

Thank you Mr President, I take the floor on behalf of the South-East Asia Region. I just want to confirm because we don't have these texts, we already gave some input to the Russian Federation delegation; but we want to ensure that our additional texts are already included in this declaration, or not? Because, if you permit, I can read our additional text.

The PRESIDENT:

For clarification, may I invite the Russian Delegation to respond?

Dr SALAGAY (Russian Federation):

Спасибо, уважаемый господин Председатель. Мы также благодарим регион СИАР за предоставленные поправки к декларации.

Мы отчасти эти поправки учтены в общем тексте декларации, в других пунктах, однако же не вынесены в отдельный пункт, как это предлагает сделать Регион. Это связано с тем, что поправки были переданы сегодня утром, когда официальная бумага была уже распространена, и когда сбор замечаний был уже прекращен. Поэтому мы хотели бы оставить этот вопрос на усмотрение сторон, и, если уважаемые представители региона Сиар сочтут возможным согласиться с тем, что эти положения, которые предложены ими, учтены в большей части в тексте декларации и в тексте документов, которые приняты Конференцией Сторон по другим пунктам повестки, мы были бы очень признательны, учитывая тот консенсус, который сейчас имеется относительно текста декларации.

4. REPORT OF COMMITTEE B

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Russia, for your clarification. We shall now turn to the report of Committee B contained in document FCTC/COP/6/B/R/1. The document contains 10 decisions proposed for adoption by the COP. I would like to invite the Chairperson of Committee B, Mr Andrew Black, to introduce the report. Mr Andrew Black, you have the floor.

Mr BLACK (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland):

Thank you, Mr President. It is my pleasure to report to the plenary on the work completed by Committee B, which I had the privilege of chairing this week. I would like to take the opportunity firstly to thank my two Vice-Chairs, Dr Escartin from the Philippines and Dr Chilengwe from Zambia. The Vice-Chairs have contributed significantly to the work of the Committee and have provided enormous leadership during our efforts this week to reach consensus.

As you will see in the first report of Committee B, in document FCTC/COP/6/B/R/1, Committee B held 10 meetings during this week. Committee B would like to recommend to the COP the adoption of the following 10 decisions, which you will find in the document report of Committee B. These 10 decisions are as follows:

- (1) regarding agenda item 5.1, Reporting arrangements under the WHO FCTC;
- (2) under agenda item 5.2, Towards a stronger contribution of the COP to achieving the noncommunicable disease global target on reduction of tobacco use;
- (3) relating to item 5.3 on the agenda, Sustainable measures to strengthen implementation of the WHO FCTC;
- (4) item 5.4, Issues related to the implementation of the WHO FCTC and settlement of disputes concerning the implementation or application of the Convention;

- (5) again under item 5.4, Trade and investment issues, including international agreements, and legal challenges in relation to implementation of the WHO FCTC;
- (6) under agenda item 6.2, Amendment to the workplan and budget for the financial period 2014–2015;
- (7) under agenda item 6.3, Voluntary assessed contributions;
- (8) under agenda item 6.5, Process for appointment and renewal of the term of office of the Head of the Convention Secretariat;
- (9) under item 6.6, Accreditation of NGOs, with the status of observer to the COP;
- (10) under item 6.8, Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the COP.

The Committee would also like to recommend to the plenary today the adoption of two decisions that were approved by the Committee this morning. The first additional decision recommended to the Plenary for adoption is a decision with regard to transparency. I would like to read it out since it was not included in the first report of Committee B to the plenary. The text of that decision reads as follows:

“Maximizing transparency with regard to Party delegations to the WHO FCTC Conference of the Parties and subsidiary bodies.

The Conference of the Parties (COP),

Recalling the Rules of Procedure of the COP, Article 5.3 of WHO FCTC and recommendations 2 and 4 of the guidelines that have been made with respect to Article 5.3 of WHO FCTC;

Recognizing the importance of maximizing transparency of meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies,

DECIDES:

(1) to request that the Bureau, when undertaking its review of the Rules of Procedure in accordance with the decision that Committee B has proposed for adoption by the plenary, gives consideration to providing options for maximizing transparency with regard to Party delegations, to COP and subsidiary bodies. Options may result in the requirement to amend the Rules of Procedure, or may be achieved in other ways;

(2) to request the Secretariat to provide assistance to the Bureau in this task.”

And that’s the end of the text of the decision. Committee B would like to recommend the adoption to plenary of the decision I have just read out.

In addition, the Committee would also like to recommend the adoption of the workplan and budget for 2016–2017 as amended by Committee B this morning. Mr President, you’ll know that we have just recently concluded our discussions in Committee B and the text of that decision is still being prepared to reflect the decision and the amendments that were made by Committee B this morning. So with your agreement, I would like to come back at a later stage in plenary to read out that decision.

I would like to thank all delegations that have participated in the very constructive deliberations of Committee B as well as the productive discussions in the various informal groups that have been created. I’m enormously grateful for the positive spirit and the flexibility that’s been demonstrated in the Committee and I’ve been very honoured to serve as the Chairman. Thank you Mr President.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Mr Black.

Distinguished delegates, let me proceed our considerations like this: the first one is to consider the adoption of the report of Committee B; the second one is to consider the adoption of transparency

proposed by Mr Black; the third one is to adopt the workplan and budget. Firstly, I would like to ask our distinguished delegates whether to adopt the report of Committee B. Are there any objections to the report of Committee B? There are no objections, so it is decided.

(Applause)

For the second issue: the transparency issue, are there no objections to the proposal made by the Chair of Committee B, Mr Black? No objections? The proposal made by the Chair of Committee B is also adopted.

(Applause)

Thirdly, we should decide on the adoption of the workplan and budget. Are there any objections to the workplan and budget? If you are not ready to consider this item, we will move to other items and then we will come back to this item.

5. DATE AND PLACE OF THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

The PRESIDENT:

Let me now move to item 7 on the date and place of the seventh session of the COP. According to Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the COP, the COP shall decide on the date and duration of the next regular session. Also according to Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the COP, the session of the COP shall be held at the site of the Secretariat unless the Conference decides otherwise.

The document in front of us contains two proposals of the Bureau, for holding COP7 in Geneva, at the Geneva International Conference Centre. One is to hold the session in early 2017, in order to bring the adoption of the workplan and budget closer to the start of implementation. The proposed dates are the following: from 27 February to 4 March 2017, or from 6 to 11 March 2017.

The second option would be to hold COP7 within the usual timing, meaning in the last quarter of 2016. The proposed date is from 26 September – 1 October 2016. Now I would like to open the floor for comments on the proposals I have just described. India, you have the floor.

Mr MISHRA (India):

Thank you. Mr President, we are happy to make an offer to host COP7 in India. We have shared our offer with the Bureau with the request to Bureau members to in turn inform the Parties of their regions about this offer for their consideration. We would be happy if our offer is considered by the COP and a decision is accordingly adopted. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you India, for your remarks. Are there any proposals or comments on this item? There are no objections to the next COP being hosted by India? South-East Asia Region? Yes

Dr VATHESATOGKIT (Thailand):

Thank you, Mr President. Thailand would like to speak as a member of the South-East Asia Region that we should keep this tradition that the COP is hosted by a Party within a region by rotation. That's a tradition that we have carried out in the last five COPs. So we as a region feel that we should keep this tradition. And that is the reason that we strongly support India's proposal to host the next COP in India. Thank you, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, South-East Asia Region. Are there any remarks? Brazil, you have the floor.

Mr CUENCA (Brazil):

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. En nombre de la Región de las Américas, nos gustaría manifestar nuestro apoyo a la oferta hecha por India y también nos parece que sería muy importante que mantuviéramos en este momento la práctica de rotación de las sedes de la COP. India tiene nuestro integral apoyo y nuestra región propone que la COP se realice en la fecha que está propuesta en 2016. Nos parece que realizar la COP en 2017 a principios de año nos crearía una dificultad porque ocurriría entre el Consejo Ejecutivo de la OMS y la Asamblea Mundial de la Salud. Ya es un periodo en que la agenda de salud está muy cargada y nos parece que sería más adecuado dejarla para 2016. Muchas gracias.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Brazil. Zambia, you have the floor.

Dr MAKASA (Zambia):

Thank you very much Mr President. Zambia speaks on behalf of the African Region and we would like to express our delight and thanks to the delegation from India for their offer and we support that offer that India host the next COP. On the issue of the date, we probably stand with Brazil's comment that we prefer it to be in September/October than the beginning of the following year because of the same reasons that it might clash with a lot of other meetings that we have at WHO. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Zambia. Are there any other comments? Eastern Mediterranean Region you have the floor.

Mr BOUZO (Syrian Arab Republic):

شكراً سيدي الرئيس،
باسم مجموعة ORME، أود أن تعرب عن جزيل الشكر والتقدير لوفد الهند على اقتراحه إضافة
إذهل تبسنياب قفاوتلا عم وه، EMRO ودلهي. أما بالنسبة للموعده المقترح لانعقاد هذا المؤتمر، فإن إقليمنا مؤتمراً قادم في ذي
التاريخ. وشكراً

The PRESIDENT:

India.

Mr MISHRA (India):

Thank you, I would just like to make a small comment for hosting the COP7 in India. The best time for us would be the first fortnight of November 2016.

The PRESIDENT:

May I give the floor to the Secretariat, Dr Vera Da Costa e Silva?

Dr DA COSTA E SILVA (Head, Convention Secretariat):

Thank you very much Mr Chairman. The proposed dates on this agenda item, they were taken into consideration that a meeting would be held in Geneva, on the possible slots at the Geneva International Conference Centre. So with the decision of this COP, and with the kind offer of the Government of India to host COP7, it seems that there might be more flexibility, but on the other hand we would need to adjust to the possibilities of dates that India would bring to us in terms of potential dates for COP7. On the other hand, I would also bring to your attention that the period of 26 September to 1 October is also a period of regional meetings of WHO, and also that this from the point of view of the workplan and budget falls on the first year of the workplan and budget, and we will be discussing the following biennium plan and budget with almost two years of difference of when it begins. So from the management point of view, the ideal situation would be to have COP7 in the second year of the biennium in order to discuss the next biennium closer to it, so we don't have to make so many decisions on how we are moving from the point of view of the current biennium. So we can ask the Bureau eventually, if you agree, to finalize the days in collaboration with the Government of India and to establish and to take into consideration the concerns raised by several Parties on clashes with existing meetings of WHO governing bodies, if this would be agreeable to you. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Any other comments? China, you have the floor.

Ms GUO (China):

谢谢主席，中国代表团支持在印度举办下一届缔约国大会。但是对于举办缔约国大会的时间，我们有一点关切。中国政府将在2016年承办第九届全球健康促进大会，这个大会将在中国上海举行。目前我们也正在跟世界卫生组织磋商具体的会期，将初步确定的时间是十月底或者十一月初。鉴于全球健康促进大会的重要性，并且会有很多国家来参加这个大会，有可能和我们的缔约国会议的举办会发生一些……（冲突）。我们有一些代表可能也会参加我们这个大会。因此，我们希望在确定我们COP 7的会期的时间能够考虑避开世界全球健康促进大会的时间。谢谢。

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, China. From my observation of the comments from the floor, there is a consensus that the host will be India. The venue is New Delhi, India. But for the date, there is no complete agreement on this, so may I propose that we mandate the Bureau to finalize the exact date in consultation with the hosting Party and the Convention Secretariat, following confirmation by the Convention Secretariat that a host agreement has been concluded at the latest by June 2015. Is it agreeable? There are no objections so it is decided.

(Applause)

With respect of the first Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol which hopefully will be held immediately after COP7 in accordance with Article 33 of the Protocol, the date for holding the first Meeting of the Parties will therefore also be finalized by the Bureau in consultation with the hosting Party and the Secretariat. Are there any objections to this? India, you have the floor.

Mr MISHRA (India):

No objections.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, India. I see no objections so it is so decided.

(Applause)

May I give the floor to India for some remarks?

Mr MISHRA (India):

Thank you. India is happy to note that its proposal for hosting COP7 in India has been accepted by the COP. It would be an honour and a privilege for us to host COP7 and to have the distinguished delegates from Parties and other accredited observers participate in the Conference in India on a subject which is a matter of much concern and occupies top position in our top public health priorities.

We welcome all the delegates and participants to India, which is a beautiful country and a country of emerging opportunities; we assure that we will make all possible arrangements to ensure interesting, fruitful and productive deliberations. For this purpose we will coordinate closely with the Convention Secretariat and the Bureau during the intersessional period. We sincerely thank the present host, the Russian Federation, for the excellent arrangements and their warm hospitality. So thank you, Russia and welcome to India for the next COP, thank you.

(Applause)

6. ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you India for hosting the next COP. We shall now turn to agenda item 8, to elect the members who will constitute the next Bureau of the Conference. According to Article 21 of the Rules of Procedure of the COP, the COP shall elect a President and Vice-Presidents, one of whom shall act as a rapporteur. The officers shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the session. Each region shall be represented by one member. After consultations with the regional groups, I will propose that Dr Oleg Salagay from the Russian Federation be elected as the President of the Bureau. Are there any objections to these proposals? I see none so it is decided.

(Applause)

For Vice-President I would like to propose that the following be elected as Vice-Presidents of the next Bureau: Madame Dorcas Kiptui from Kenya for the African Region, Dr Reina Roa from Panama for the Region of the Americas, Dr Jawad Al-Lawati from Oman for the Eastern Mediterranean Region, Dr Hassan Mohamed from the Maldives for the South-East Asia Region, and Mr Marcus Samo from the Federated States of Micronesia for the Western Pacific Region. Finally, it is also proposed that Dr Hassan Mohamed from the Maldives serves as the Rapporteur. Are there any objections to these proposals? I see none. It is so decided.

(Applause)

May I invite Dr Oleg Salagay, our next President, to make a short statement to the COP? Dr Salagay you have the floor.

Dr SALAGAY (Russian Federation) :

Спасибо, уважаемый господин Председатель.

Уважаемый господин Председатель, уважаемые делегаты, это большая честь и привилегия быть избранным в высокий орган управления Конвенции. Я хотел бы, пользуясь случаем, поблагодарить председателя 6 сессии Конференции Сторон, профессора Муна, членов бюро, региональных координаторов, секретариат, переводчиков за продуктивную работу, которая позволила нам прийти к тем решениям, которые сегодня были приняты.

Дорогие друзья, вчера и сегодня в Москве прошел первый снег, и я уверен, что это хороший знак, который покажет, что каждый следующий КОП будет ещё более продуктивен, чем предыдущий. Спасибо.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Dr Salagay for your remarks. The order in which the Vice-Presidents will serve as President in the event that the President is not able to serve will be drawn by lots. The names of the five Vice-Presidents have been written down on five separate sheets of papers, which I am now going to draw. First: Madame Dorcas Kiptui, Kenya.

(Applause)

Second: Dr Hassan Mohamed, Maldives.

(Applause)

Third: Dr Reina Roa, Panama.

(Applause)

Number four: Mr Marcus Samo, Federated States of Micronesia.

(Applause)

Number five: Dr Jawad Al-Lawati, Oman.

(Applause)

This concludes consideration of agenda item 8, thank you very much.

7. ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL REPORT OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

The PRESIDENT:

Agenda item number 9, adoption of the provisional report of COP. We shall now turn to adoption of the provisional report of COP which is contained in document FCTC/COP/6/31 and which was distributed this morning. I would like to give the floor to our rapporteur, Madame Dorcas Kiptui, to describe the process for us for the adoption of the provisional report. Madame Kiptui, you have the floor.

Ms KIPTUI (Kenya):

Thank you, Mr President. As you will recall, the COP at its fifth session adopted a number of efficiency measures when adopting the workplan and budget. One of them was to replace the format of

lengthy summary records by a shorter report of the COP which will be adopted by the COP on the last day of the session. Document FCTC/COP/6/INF.DOC./3 provides information on the production by the Secretariat of the provisional report that is in front of us. It contains a number of summaries of the proceedings and conclusions of each of the agenda items, and in addition all the decisions adopted by this Conference will be annexed to the report. The document in front of us reflects the meetings of the sessions until and including the afternoon meetings of yesterday and most of the evening session of Committee B. The remaining proceedings will be included in the revised final version of the provisional report that will be made available to Parties for corrections for a period of 15 days starting from Monday 20 October through Tuesday 4 November 2014. Accordingly, all corrections should be received by Tuesday 4 November. I hope we can agree that we shall mandate the Secretariat to finalize the report in consultation with the Rapporteur and the Bureau, taking account of the corrections that may have been received over the period of 15 days. The provisional report will be made available to Parties on a protected website, and information to access this protected website will be provided by the Secretariat to the Parties. May I now hand over to the President to seek the agreement of the plenary on this process.

8. REPORT OF COMMITTEE B

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you Madame Kiptui. Before finalizing the provisional report adoption. May I give the floor to Mr Black, the Chair of Committee B?

Mr BLACK (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland):

Thank you, Mr President. I'm pleased to present to plenary the approved workplan and budget for the financial period 2016–2017 and I wish to read out the decision from Committee B. The text is as follows:

“Workplan and budget for the financial period 2016–2017:

The Conference of the Parties (COP),

Reaffirming its decision FCTC/COP1(9) on the adoption of the financial rules of the COP;

Recalling its decision FCTC/COP5(19) on the workplan and budget for the financial period 2014-2015,

DECIDES:

(1) to adopt the budget for the financial period 2016–2017 as agreed in Committee B of the sixth session of the COP;

(2) to adopt the workplan for the financial period 2016–2017 as indicated in the annex to this decision taking into account the decisions taken by the COP at its fifth session;

(3) to establish the total amount of voluntary assessed contributions of Parties for the financial period 2016–2017 at the level of US\$ 9.1 million;

(4) to request the Secretariat in coordination with the Bureau to communicate the scale of the assessment of voluntary assessment contributions for 2016–2017 to Parties following adoption of the scale of assessment by the United Nations General Assembly in late 2015;

(5) to extend decision FCTC/COP5(18) regarding harmonization of travel support available to Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in line with current WHO administrative policies for travel support through COP7;

(6) to authorize the Secretariat to request the payment of voluntary assessed contributions including from countries that may become a Party to the Convention between the sixth and seventh sessions of the COP in line with the scale of assessment as indicated in paragraph (4) of this decision;

(7) to request the Head of the Secretariat to implement the budget and workplan adopted by the COP and to submit to the COP:

(a) an interim performance report on the workplan and budget for the financial period 2016–2017 along with a final performance report on the workplan and budget for the financial period 2014–2015 at its seventh session; and

(b) a final performance report on the workplan and budget for the financial period 2016–2017 at its eighth session;

(8) to authorize the Secretariat to seek and receive voluntary extrabudgetary contributions for activities in line with the workplan;

(9) to encourage Parties to the Convention to provide extrabudgetary contributions for meeting the objectives of the workplan;

(10) to call on the Head of the Secretariat to keep the Bureau regularly updated on the status of budgets and workplans agreed by the COP.”

The annex to the decision will be amended in accordance with the decisions made in Committee B today. Thank you, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Mr Black for your great effort to reach a consensus. There has been no time to produce a written second report and I would like to ask the delegates to consider adopting the decisions on the workplan and budget for 2016–2017 based on the presentation of the Chair of the Committee.

India, you have the floor.

Mr PUSP (India):

Thank you, Mr President. We are not clear about the language used in respect of alignment of WHO policy for travel support to Parties in the draft decision. The draft decision has not been circulated, it is not with us, so can we have some clarity on that. What do we mean exactly by the sentence in the draft decision?

The PRESIDENT:

Yes, may I invite the Chair to clarify. Mr Black, thank you.

Mr BLACK (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland):

Thank you Mr President and thank you to the distinguished delegate of India for the question. I've been reminded of the COP decision, FCTC/COP5(18) on harmonization of travel support, and I think it is probably most useful if I read that decision to assist with the deliberations. The decision was

to decide nevertheless to finance the per diem of least developed countries from voluntary assessed contributions on the same basis until and including the sixth session of the COP, and to decide moreover to continue to finance travel for low- and lower-middle-income countries on the budget financed by voluntary assessed contributions and to cover the costs of corresponding per diem with resources available in the extrabudgetary funds until and including the sixth session of the COP, and it is that decision that's been extended in the proposed decision from Committee B and I hope that assists India, thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Mr Black. Are there any objections? India, you have the floor.

Mr PUSP (India):

Thank you, Mr President. Can we have the exact language used in the draft decision, the current draft decision that we are going to adopt?

The PRESIDENT:

Yes, may I give the floor to Mr Black.

Mr BLACK (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland):

Thank you, Mr President. I'm happy to read the relevant passage from the draft decision again. I'm mindful of the fact that we only concluded our deliberations on the budget recently. So it does help for me to reiterate the section of the decision from Committee B to assist the plenary. So I would turn to the point no. 5 in the decision, and I'll read that again because I think it helps:

“(5) to extend decision FCTC/COP5(18) regarding harmonization of travel support available to Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in line with current WHO administrative policies for travel support through COP7.”

So the effect is to take that COP decision, FCTC/COP5(18) and extend it through to COP7, thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Mr Black. Are there any objections to adopting the decision? May I ask India, are you happy?

Mr PUSP (India):

Thank you, Mr President. In fact what I could gather was the extension of the COP5 decision for alignment with the WHO scale of support. If I'm wrong, please correct me, because I don't have the text before me. Does it say that the existing policy will continue up to COP7?

Mr BLACK (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland):

Thank you, Mr President. Of course this was an issue that was of some concern to Committee B and we did discuss the matter extensively. I can see why the question is being asked by the distinguished delegate of India. I think the confusion might come from the title of the COP decision that doesn't necessarily help the discussion that we are having. But COP decision FCTC/COP5(18) did propose a particular travel support that was over and above the WHO travel support that was to

conclude at this COP, but the decision of Committee B would be to extend that support to this next COP, COP7.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Democratic Republic of Congo?

Mr MBUYU MUTEBA YAMBELE (Democratic Republic of Congo):

Merci Monsieur le Président. Tout à l'heure, la commission B ont longuement délibéré, à la demande des pays concernés par ces mesures de participation aux différentes COP. Ils n'ont pas demandé de solution provisoire, comme attendre jusqu'à la COP7, mais ils ont exprimé leur souhait d'aboutir à une solution permanente. Devant la difficulté pour certains pays à mobiliser les fonds nécessaires pour participer aux COP, le délégation du Congo tient à souligner que nos pays, en particulier le mien, considèrent que la COP ou la lutte antitabac est un travail d'experts. Nous venons ici en tant qu'experts, même si nous sommes des représentants politiques.

Puisqu'il s'agit de mobiliser l'argent dont la COP a besoin pour financer la lutte antitabac, nous lui suggérons d'intéresser davantage ou d'inviter nos ministres aux différentes réunions sur la lutte antitabac, en particulier aux différentes COP. Cela pourrait les sensibiliser, afin qu'ils prennent en compte et trouvent des solutions de financement, d'autant qu'il sera obligatoire de s'acquitter d'une contribution pour participer et avoir droit de parole.

Nous insistons donc sur la nécessité d'associer nos ministres – en particulier de la santé – aux COP, afin qu'ils soutiennent d'eux-mêmes ces démarches sans y être imposés. En effet, il faut comprendre que nos pays sont particulièrement mal à l'aise lorsqu'on aborde notre prise en charge. Depuis les années 60, différents pays africains sont devenus indépendants, et ils continuent d'être assistés financièrement par les différents pays que vous représentez. Nous pensons donc que la lutte antitabac devrait également bénéficier de cette aide, comme cela a été prévu dans les réunions de New York, et cette situation nous satisfait. Cependant, il faudra absolument inciter nos ministres, en particulier de la santé, à participer à nos réunions afin que les délégations soient moins confrontées à ce problème, et qu'une solution permanente ne soit pas seulement à l'ordre de la COP7, mais plutôt pour toutes les COP. Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

The PRESIDENT:

Yes, the next speaker is Nigeria.

Dr USORO (Nigeria):

Thank you, Mr President. I do appreciate the concern of India. Being the next hosts I think they have a little bit of concern but I think if they extend the same level of generosity as our current hosts that enabled many of the participants to attend this current meeting – it will be an interim measure as well – so I'm appealing to the Government of India to see how they can extend some generosity to certain delegations like the Russian Federation did, thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

May I invite India to respond something to this proposal?

Mr PUSP (India):

Thank you, Mr President. As we understand, for hosting the COP, as for the host agreement that needs to be signed we have to pay for the cost of the difference between the cost of organizing the event in Geneva and in India. To that extent we are OK with the proposal because we have the

mandate to do that. But in so far as this suggestion is concerned, I think we will try but we do not have the mandate at present to agree to this request, thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Bangladesh, you have the floor.

Mr SADAT (Bangladesh):

Thank you Mr President, I would like to congratulate you for conducting the sessions very successfully but in response to India's query and also in response to the Committee B Chair, I would like to share some ideas; I think that he has not amply clarified certain issues and it remains still unintelligible to some of us, and some things are not quite clear. What we understand is that the Moscow Declaration is coming up with a lot of hopes and aspirations, it is at the same time recognizing that international collaboration on tobacco control is a key factor in the reduction of the burden of NCDs. As the Moscow Declaration is certifying this and recommending that it has the global participation of all member States, it is very important in reducing tobacco consumption so it is also important and in the interest of tobacco control that he has participants from across the globe. They should be requested to attend the COP meetings, so in order to do that the participants must be invited and the travel support should be wholeheartedly encouraged and extended by the WHO FCTC Secretariat without the least hesitation, as the governments of the lower-income countries might not be able to fund to facilitate the participation of the attendees, so this is very important. It should be clear and I understand that some of the budget is being expended for WHO FCTC in different spheres of tobacco control and why not? This participation should be covered, I think this is a very small portion of the entire budget and expenditure and it must continue and must not be curtailed in any way, thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Bangladesh. Are there any other remarks or comments? Let me announce that the Secretariat is preparing to show the related paragraphs on the screen now. The Secretariat is ready to show the paragraphs? May I give the floor to Mr Black before showing the paragraphs on the screen.

Mr BLACK (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland):

Thank you, Mr President. Just to assist the deliberations of plenary, the Secretariat will be putting the text relating to travel support that's in the Committee B decision on the screen so distinguished delegates can see what has been proposed. There is also an option for the draft decision that will be adopted by plenary to be reviewed and amended to bring in the text from decision FCTC/COP5(18) to make it crystal clear what is being proposed and what's been agreed in Committee B for travel support so I think that will assist the deliberations and by substituting that text we can improve the understanding and the meaning of what has been approved in Committee B. Thank you, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT:

Now, distinguished delegates, you can see the paragraphs on the screen so may I ask Mr Black to read these paragraphs one by one in English and the translation will be provided when you read. Shall we start?

Mr BLACK (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland):

Thank you, Mr President. We have listened carefully to the concerns and the contributions from plenary in relation to the language in the decision that I read out. There has been a proposal from

Legal Counsel that actually we could improve the language in the decision. It is up on the screen and I would like to draw your attention to no.5, that's been crossed out: that was the previous paragraph 5 that I had read. The proposal is to replace that paragraph with new paragraphs 5 and 6, and I'm happy to read that proposal, so 5 would read as follows:

(5) to finance the per diem of least developed countries from voluntary assessed contributions as adopted until and including the seventh session of the COP.”

And then a new paragraph 6:

“(6) to finance, moreover, travel for low- and lower-middle-income countries from voluntary assessed contributions and to cover the cost of corresponding per diem with resources available in the extrabudgetary funds until and including the seventh session of the COP.”

So, those two new paragraphs, 5 and 6, are proposed to replace paragraph 5 that I had originally read out and I hope that that clarifies understanding and from my perspective that is an accurate representation of the conclusions of Committee B.

Turning to one question that was raised regarding the extension of travel support indefinitely. This was not a decision that was made in Committee B. The decision in Committee B was only with respect to extending these travel arrangements until the next COP, until the seventh session of the COP, so I hope, Mr President, that improves the language of the decision, and I hope my explanations assist as well, thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Mr Black. Are there any comments on the sentence presented on the screen? Maldives, you have the floor.

Dr MOHAMED (Maldives):

Thank you, Mr President. We realize the time we have and this is no way to prolong the discussions but just to seek a clarification. If you read 5 and 6, we understand from 5 we are supporting the per diem of the least developed countries. In 6, we are financing the travel as well as the per diem of lower- and lower-middle-income countries. The question would be, do these two sentences cover the travel costs of the least developed countries. Are they covered here? I'm not sure, thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Yes, Mr Black you have the floor.

Mr BLACK (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland):

Thank you. Mr President, I know we have Legal Counsel and we are drafting on the screen so I think it is a question that might usefully be answered by Legal Counsel. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

For clarification. Yes, may I give the floor to the legal.

Mr SOLOMON (WHO Office of the Legal Counsel):

Let me just explain the reason that the language was chosen, because it is identical to the language in the decision from the last COP. The thought was that if we used the agreed language that

this would find consensus this time. But if there is a need for further clarification with respect to detail then if we could turn to the Secretariat who is handling those administrative questions.

Ms DELAND (Convention Secretariat):

The decision from COP5, the language from COP5, was agreed to because it is predicated on the COP decision to have harmonized travel policy with WHO's travel policy, which states in part that least developed countries receive travel support. So having already harmonized with WHO's travel policy, which would allow for tickets for least developed countries, the only exceptions or additions to that are the per diem for least developed countries, tickets for low- and lower-middle-income countries and per diem for low- and lower-middle-income countries. In this case, the COP is deciding from voluntary assessed contributions to cover per diem for least developed countries and tickets for low- and lower-middle-income countries from voluntary assessed contributions and per diem for low- and lower-middle-income countries from extrabudgetary. This would be an exception to the otherwise harmonized WHO travel policy.

The PRESIDENT:

I think it has become clear now. Yes, you have the floor Mr Black.

Mr BLACK (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland):

Thank you, Mr President. As Chairman of Committee B I would like to request the Secretariat make a further amendment, and that is to include the words "and travel" to paragraph 5, so that would read "to finance the travel and per diem" and I think that assists us even more to understand the conclusion of committee B on this question so with that addition I think from my perspective that's an accurate representation of the discussions and the conclusion of Committee B. Thanks, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Are there any objections to this draft decision? May I take it that the COP can consider adopting the decisions on the work plan and budget for 2016–2017? I see no objections. The decision on the workplan and budget for 2016–2017 is therefore adopted.

(Applause)

9. ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL REPORT OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

The PRESIDENT:

Going back to the adoption of the provisional report, I think Madame Kiptui again, and in line with the presentation, may I take that we need to adopt this provisional report? Are there any objections? I see no objections, so it is so decided.

(Applause)

10. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

Now we have reached our last item for this session after a very intense and productive week. Before I conclude, allow me to give the floor to the Head of Convention Secretariat. Dr Vera da Costa e Silva, you have the floor.

Dr DA COSTA E SILVA (Head, Convention Secretariat):

Thank you very much. Dear all, I am so pleased with this very successful COP. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our host country, the Russian Federation, for their impeccable organization and providing us with a wonderful environment to conduct our work, thank you Russian Federation.

(Applause)

And of course I am most grateful to the delegates that worked tirelessly this week and made decisions that will continue to accelerate implementation of the treaty, a very strong COP6.

I want to also thank the observers from the various groups, the many friends, and I want to extend a special thanks to the officers of the COP, the chairs of the working group, the drafting groups and the chairs of the informal drafting groups as well as the Bureau and to the regional coordinators. Special thanks go to the Secretariat staff, my special staff, who have worked very long hours to support the work of the COP, the behind the scenes work. I would like to extend my thanks to the local staff and interpreters and to all of those who worked behind the scenes to make the meeting run so well.

I would like to wish you all a very safe journey back home and much success in continuing the work of implementing the WHO FCTC and accelerating the ratification of the illicit trade Protocol.

We will be very pleased to organize with the Government of India the next COP. We would like to thank our President, the current President, and our future President, the Bureau members and the next Bureau members also welcome, and we hope to have a very fruitful collaboration with all the officers of the COP as well as the Parties to the COP with all the civil society extended with intergovernmental organizations, especially WHO, and hope just to strengthen and continue to support implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much, Dr Vera da Costa e Silva. Distinguished delegates, it is my honour to preside over the closure of the sixth session of the COP. I wish to take this opportunity to thank first our host, the Government of Russian Federation for welcoming this session and making a successful event. I also wish to thank the Head of Convention Secretariat, Dr Vera da Costa e Silva, and all the staff who supported in organizing this session, the teams of interpreters and all those who have been working hard to prepare this session and who are not always visible.

More importantly, I convey my sincere gratitude to Professor Nuntavarn Vichit-Vadakan, Chair of Committee A, and Mr Andrew Black, Chair of Committee B, who contributed to deliver the successful outcome of COP6. My sincere appreciation goes to my fellow Bureau members and the regional coordinators. I want to thank them for their valuable contribution and commitment to the WHO FCTC. It is an honour for me to work with them.

Last but not least I wish to thank all of you for your support, your positive approach, your patience, your active participation and contributions throughout the session.

I would like to ask delegates if you wish to speak before I close the session. Senegal, you have the floor.

(Applause)

Mr NGINGUE (Senegal):

Je voulais profiter de cette tribune pour remercier chaleureusement la Fédération de Russie. Malgré le froid russe, leur accueil a été tellement chaleureux que cela a substantiellement dilué ce froid.

Je voulais lancer un dernier appel à toutes les délégations ici présentes pour qu'une fois rentrées au pays, les mécaniques de mise en oeuvre de ces décisions soient prises, autrement tous nos travaux auront été vains. La mise en oeuvre de toutes les directives et la prise en compte de toutes les conclusions élaborées au cours de cette Convention sont essentielles.

Je voulais conclure en citant Alexandre le Grand, qui avait donné trois grandes recommandations avant sa mort :

« Je veux que les plus grands médecins du monde transportent ma dépouille mortelle. » (Et je sais qu'il y a beaucoup de médecins dans la salle.)

« Je veux également qu'au cours du trajet funèbre, mes bras soient levés vers le ciel. »

« Je veux que mes biens soient distribués tout au long de ce trajet. »

Un de ses amis lui a demandé : « Mais pourquoi ces trois recommandations ? »

Il a répondu que face à la mort, il n'y avait rien à faire, et c'est pourquoi il voulait que les gens comprennent que partout dans l'univers, les hommes biens connaissent la faiblesse à un moment de leur existence, et quelle que soit leur force ou leur puissance, ils mourraient inexorablement.

Ce même lui a ensuite demandé : « Et pourquoi vos bras doivent être tournés vers le ciel ? »

Ce qui à quoi le souverain a répondu :

« Parcequ'on vient au monde nu, et on en repart nu, et il n'y a pas d'autre richesse que le temps. Quand c'est le moment, on s'en va, et c'est pourquoi il faut consacrer le temps dont on dispose aux choses que l'on veut et aux êtres que l'on aime. »

Ainsi, vous consacrez ce temps à lutter contre le tabac, à lutter pour la survie de l'homme sur terre, à lutter pour la santé de l'humanité, et je crois que vous avez employé ce temps-là à une oeuvre et une cause nobles.

Je vous remercie infiniment de m'avoir permis de partager ce temps d'une semaine, à lutter pour une cause aussi noble que la lutte contre le tabac et le recul de la consommation, afin de protéger la santé des hommes sur cette terre.

Je vous remercie infiniment au nom des délégations du Sénégal, de l'Afrique, et de toutes les autres.

Merci beaucoup Monsieur le Président.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Senegal. May I give the floor to Kyrgyzstan, followed by India.

Dr BEKBASAROVA (Kyrgyzstan):

Спасибо, господин Председатель. Разрешите от имени Кыргызстана, а также от имени стран Центральной Азии, поблагодарить правительство Российской Федерации за прекрасную организацию Конференции Сторон, а также поздравить Олега Салагай с избранием на должность президента следующей 7-ой Конференции, поздравить президиум, господин председатель, Вас, за прекрасное проведение Конференции Сторон и всех поздравить за то, что мы так хорошо поработали и достаточно много документов приняли. Спасибо.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Kyrgyzstan. I would like to give the floor to India, followed by Micronesia.

Mr PUSP (India):

Thank you Mr President. I speak on behalf of the South-East Asia Region and congratulate you on the excellent conduct of the COP session and at the same time I take the opportunity to congratulate

the Chairs of Committee A and Committee B for their efficient handling of business which resulted in the successful completion (and in time), because I remember last time when we were delayed, this time we are just in time. So it is a great achievement and as already pointed out, this COP has proved to be more productive than the last COP and hopefully the next COP will be even more productive than this one, hopefully so and let us resolve two things on this. One is that we need to keep the tobacco industry out of our business, out of our negotiations, out of FCTC, that is a firm resolve that all of us must take. And the second, I am also very appreciative of the flexibility shown by this COP in extending the travel and *per diem* support to low- and lower-middle-income countries, which will make the democratic character of COP even more visible to every one of us.

And I take this opportunity to thank all the delegates, all the Parties who presented and worked tirelessly on the draft decisions and worked through drafting groups, worked through working groups, to arrive at a common understanding and finally: welcome to the India for the next COP, especially the ones who have never been to India. India is a wonderful country and has a lot to offer, thank you very much.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, India and the next speaker is Micronesia, followed by Peru.

Mr SAMO (Federated States of Micronesia):

Mr President, distinguished delegates, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. The Western Pacific Region would like to submit this statement as our appreciation for the record. First the Western Pacific Region would like to appreciate its gratitude to the government and people of the Russian Federation for being such a great host during this COP6. The warmth of the Russian people is felt throughout our stay in this beautiful Moscow. We also want to express our appreciation to the FCTC Secretariat, the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of both committees A and B for your leadership and great work in steering our discussion to a fruitful completion.

We debated the important issues facing us as a tobacco control and prevention community and at the end of the day we have reached agreement. We are proud of collegiality and as the Chairperson of Committee A already said, thank you for your flexibility and willingness to work together to promote public health.

To you, Mr President, it would be remiss if we as a region did not say thank you for a job well done in ensuring that COP6 is a success. With your able leadership and excellent management skills, COP6 achieves its programme of work. Thank you very much.

As we depart this vibrant city of Moscow back to our normal routine, let us be reminded that COP6 came at a time of preparation for the tenth year anniversary of the ratification of the WHO FCTC. We have come a long way, some of us took baby steps but we have made great progress. The decisions we made at COP6 affirms our common desire to promote good health and protect public health from the tobacco industry. As we move forward, we can look back and be proud of our collected actions. Ladies and gentlemen, let's all further accelerate the implementation of the FCTC for the children of our lifetime.

Lastly, we would like to thank India as our great next host of COP7 and we look forward to see you in India. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you Micronesia. The next speaker is Peru, followed by Jamaica.

Dr FARIÁS ALBUQUERQUE (Peru):

Gracias, señor Presidente. Al terminar esta 6.ª COP, estamos saliendo con una mirada de mayor proyección a la COP 7. Cuando vemos que las Naciones Unidas, la Organización Mundial de la Salud y otras instituciones intergubernamentales están considerando que combatir el tabaquismo dentro de las enfermedades crónicas no transmisibles deberá ser uno de los objetivos de salud dentro de los objetivos de desarrollo sostenible post 2015. En otras palabras, señor Presidente, todo lo elaborado en las anteriores COP y las futuras COP estarán elevando su nivel de atención de los países del mundo. Aliento a las partes a que dirijamos nuestra mirada a esta nueva perspectiva del mundo en la que el control del tabaco equivale a promover el desarrollo, el progreso del mundo entero. Nuestros países deberán tomar en serio esta meta de los objetivos post 2015 en que siendo voluntaria sea anímicamente obligatoria para reducir en un 30 % la prevalencia del consumo del tabaquismo para el año 2025. Felicitémonos, señor Presidente, por el esfuerzo que esta COP está realizando en el desarrollo sostenible de esta aldea, nuestro planeta tierra. Y, en eso, nuestras renovadas felicitaciones a usted, a los Presidentes de las comisiones, al Presidente de la Convención, a los participantes en esta convención y a la sociedad civil por su esfuerzo. Gracias, señor Presidente.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Peru. The next speaker is Jamaica, followed by AMRO

Ms DENNIS (Jamaica):

Thank you, Mr President and good afternoon to all of you. Jamaica wishes to express its gratitude to all for all the contributions made. I believe that all the discussions were very good, the contributions made were certainly useful and in respect of the work that has been done by the Secretariat and WHO in Jamaica we are especially grateful for the work done and also being here which will help us to accelerate further our implementation of the Framework Convention. We are grateful to Russia and all the planners for the warm reception here, and just to share that on my way here I spent my birthday on my way here and I thought “oh my, COP6, I hope it is worth it”; but I am happy to report that I am glad I can be a part of such a wonderful legacy. The meetings were very good, the discussions were fruitful and I believe this was an excellent COP, thank you.

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Jamaica. May I give the floor to the Region of the Americas?

Mr CUENCA (Brazil):

Señor Presidente, estimados delegados, señoras y señores, hablo en nombre de la Región de las Américas. Hoy, en el último día de la 6.ª sesión de la COP, podemos decir que construimos colectivamente una nueva etapa en la historia del Convenio Marco para el control del tabaco, un instrumento de salud pública sin precedentes. Fueron días de trabajo intensivo que traen resultados significativos, dentro de los cuales podemos destacar: la aprobación de las guías del artículo 6 para alinear las políticas nacionales de precios y los impuestos del tabaco con los objetivos de salud pública; la adopción de la decisión que trata de las opciones de política para la implementación de alternativas para la producción de tabaco, relacionadas con los artículos 17 y 18 del Convenio. Otro tema sensible que requirió ser tratado con mucho equilibrio, por su complejidad fue el desafío de buscar armonizar la Convención con los temas relacionados con el comercio y la inversión. Consideramos que los resultados que se pudieron alcanzar reflejan la importancia de seguir avanzando en el fortalecimiento de la intersectorialidad como uno de los pilares del Convenio Marco. También podemos constatar a través del informe de implementación del Convenio los avances significativos, los avances y logros

que se han conseguido a través del Convenio Marco desde 2005. Sin embargo, tenemos plena consciencia de que tenemos aún muchos desafíos por delante y que cada vez más necesitamos unir nuestros esfuerzos e inteligencia para enfrentar a la industria del tabaco, el principal vector de la epidemia del tabaquismo y de las enfermedades y muertes que son evitables. Hoy saldremos de aquí con energías renovadas para fortalecer la implementación del Convenio Marco en nuestros países. En nombre de la región, agradecemos a todas las delegaciones aquí presentes, a los observadores y muy especialmente a usted señor Presidente y a los Presidentes de los comités A y B por su inestimable dedicación y espíritu de cooperación. Nos gustaría expresar en especial nuestro reconocimiento y agradecimiento a la nueva jefa del Secretariado y a su equipo, que han logrado que han logrado ofrecer con mucho éxito a todas las delegaciones el apoyo y la facilitación necesarios para el éxito en nuestro trabajo. Agradecemos al gobierno de la Federación Rusa por su hospitalidad y le felicitamos por la excelente organización de este evento, el cual ha contribuido a alcanzar logros significativos para continuar con los objetivos del control de tabaco. Es oportuna la ocasión para darle la bienvenida al nuevo Presidente de la mesa y manifestar el apoyo a su gestión y su mandato por parte de nuestra región. Agradecemos la aún bienvenida oferta de India como sede de la COP 7. Para finalizar, la Región de las Américas se congratula en informar el interés de México en acoger la celebración de la COP 8, y así esperamos el MOP 2 de la Convención. Deseamos a todos un feliz regreso a casa y muchas gracias.

The PRESIDENT:

EMRO, yes please.

Mr BOUZO (Syrian Arab Republic):

شكراً سيدي الرئيس،
السيد رئيس المؤتمر،
السيدة رئيسة أمانة الاتفاقية،
السيدات والسادة رؤساء وأعضاء الوفود،
الحضور الأكارم،
السيدات والسادة،
أسعد الله أوقاتكم،

يشرفني أن أتحدث بالنيابة عن دول إقليم شرق المتوسط، وبالنيابة عن وفد بلادي الجمهورية العربية السورية. وأستهل هذه الكلمة بتقديم التهنية على النتائج الباهرة التي التوصل إليها خلال مداوات مؤتمرا هذا طيلة الأيام الماضية. الأمر الذي يعتبر إضافة هامة للجهود المشتركة للتصدي للمخاطر الجمة والمترابدة لقطاع الطلب على الصحة العامة، ولا سيما في الأونة الأخيرة. وأشير هنا إلى المقررات التي اعتمدها المؤتمر والمقدمة أساساً من كل من ماليزيا وتايلاند، مما يعتبر نصراً حقيقياً يحسب للجهود التي نقوم بها جميعاً لحماية الصحة وتعزيز وحفظ الصحة. كما أشكر في هذا السياق أيضاً الدول الأعضاء التي وافقت على اعتماد مشاريع القرارات التي تقدمت بها بعض دول الإقليم. وأشكر هذه الوفود على مساندتها ودعمها، الأمر الذي مكن من اعتماد هذه المقررات بروح عالية من المسؤولية والشفافية والعمل بروح الفريق الواحد وذلك برئاسة رئيسي اللجنتين "أ" و"ب".

السيد الرئيس، ترحب مجموعة شرق المتوسط باعتماد إعلان موسكو الذي يشكل إضافة نوعية وهامة لجهودنا جميعاً فيما يخص الحد من انتشار التبغ وحماية الفئات المستضعفة من مخاطره الجمة. ويسهم هذا الإعلان في توثيق عرى التعاون والتنسيق بشأن مكافحة التبغ على المستوى العالمي.

ختاماً، لا يسعني إلا أن أقدم بالتهنية إلى السيد دكتور أوليغ سالاجاي لانتخابه رئيساً لهيئة المكتب، وهو بدون أدنى شك كفوياً لذلك. كما أقدم التهنية لنواب الرئيس لانتخابهم في عضوية هيئة المكتب الجديد والذين نتق بمقدرتهم الفنية والمهنية وجهودهم للارتقاء بواقع العمل في هيئة المكتب. كما لا يفوتني أن أشكر السيد رئيس مؤتمرنا هذا البروفيسور مون على حسن إدارته وجهوده الكبيرة والتميزة التي بذلها طيلة العامين الماضيين وساهمت وبشكل واضح وكبير في تسهيل أعمال اتفاقية منظمة الصحة الإطارية ومؤتمرا هذا، وبدون أدنى شك. والشكر موصول لأعضاء هيئة المكتب والعاملين في أمانة الاتفاقية وجميع الأطر الفنية والإدارية والتقنية التي قامت بدور جبار لإنجاح هذا المؤتمر وكذلك الأخوة الإعلاميين. كما أتمنى للسيد دا سيلفا الرئيسة الحالية لأمانة الاتفاقية المزيد من النجاح والتوفيق في مهامها ومسؤولياتها الكبيرة في ظل الظروف الراهنة. والشكر كل الشكر للاتحاد الروسي لرعايته لهذا المؤتمر وعلى حسن الإعداد والتنظيم والاستقبال وكرم الضيافة التي لمسناها جميعاً منذ أن وطأت أقدامنا هذه الأرض الطيبة. كما نشكر الهند على دعوتها لاستضافة المؤتمر القادم. ولكم مني كل الشكر والتقدير. والسلام عليكم.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

May I invite India to speak?

Mr PUSP (India):

Thank you, Mr President. I take the floor as the former bureau member of this COP and it was a great privilege working with the current bureau members, with the President and other bureau members. It is a pleasure welcoming the new bureau members and the new President. The new President happens to be in the current bureau as well, so I wish him good luck and all the best in his new role as the President of the bureau, and it was a pleasure working with the bureau members and the President, thank you very much for that.

I also congratulate the government of the Russian Federation for wonderful organization of the COP event here in Moscow. I thank the Convention Secretariat and I welcome the new head of the Convention Secretariat, and we assure our full cooperation with the Secretariat and the new bureau and last but not least as an after-effect or just as a result of COP FCTC, India has simply introduced its pack warning rules, covering 85% on the principal display area of tobacco product packs and it is a direct result of the COP FCTC compliance obligations. Thank you so much.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

There are no more Parties who wish to speak, so may I give the floor to NGOs? The first speaker is FCA, the representative of FCA, you have the floor.

Dr DOROTHEO (Framework Convention Alliance on Tobacco Control):

Thank you, Mr President. The Framework Convention Alliance on Tobacco Control (FCA), the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (the Union) and the Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA) would like to congratulate the COP on a successful and historic session. We thank you for resisting any interference by the tobacco industry and unanimously adopting strong guidelines on taxation and pricing, which will undoubtedly save many thousands of lives. Your decisions on reporting and sustainable measures also set the FCTC on solid ground for moving forward in the future. We also congratulate you on other decisions on travel support for low and middle income countries, on trade and investment issues and many others too numerous to list. We would also bring your attention to continuing work such as the implementation review mechanism, which should be carefully considered between now and the COP's seventh session. Finally, the Union, FCA and SEATCA would like to thank our hosts, the Government of the Russian Federation, for the kind hospitality and graciousness. Thank you, Mr President.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you for your remarks. The next speaker is Corporate Accountability International.

Mr OCHIENG (Corporate Accountability International):

Thank you Mr President, for giving me the floor. I speak on behalf of Corporate Accountability International and the Network for Accountability of Tobacco Transnational (NATT) and a network of more than 50 NGOs around the world dedicated to protecting the implementation of FCTC from tobacco industry interference. Mr President, we are encouraged by Dr Margaret Chan's opening remarks. WHO remains the tobacco industry's enemy number one, and Dr da Costa e Silva

highlighted the critical impetus of the accelerated implementation of Article 5.3 and its guidelines, which is truly the backbone of the FCTC. Mr President, we are also encouraged by Parties' commitments to take tangible steps to protect health from big tobacco. This week, the COP advanced Thailand's proposals to address new and evolving challenges of the tobacco industry to undermine health at an international level as well as continuing work that will support Parties in holding the tobacco industry legally liable for its abuses.

But more work needs to be done. Be assured that the tobacco industry will not rest on its laurels. At COP7, and as our new host has just stated, it is critical that Parties take critical steps to protect the COP and its subsidiary bodies from the tobacco industry. Australia's original proposal to screen the public in order to exclude tobacco industry from treaty meetings, received the support of many of the Parties in the opening plenary. Unfortunately, the interest of the tobacco industry undermined advancement of this important proposal. And because we know that the industry will not stop interfering, we can expect this issue to be at the forefront again at COP7. Indeed it will continue to be prioritized until Parties can agree to exclude the industry from the public, in line with Article 5.3 and its guidelines. We also need to ensure that the work of the Article 19 expert groups leads to tangible tools for Parties and fulfils the liability mandate set out in Article 19 itself, including criminal liability. Many Parties call for the working group to develop guidelines. We urge all Parties to heed this call at COP7 and to make big tobacco pay.

Finally, Mr President, we look forward to building on the overwhelming global solidarity we have found here this week, to face down tobacco industry interference, where that be through trade or infiltration in our meeting, and to turn our important decisions into tangible measures in line with Article 5.3 in our home countries. Mr President, I want to reassure you that NAAT and Corporate Accountability International are valuable to support Parties in this regard. Thank you Mr President and bon voyage, everybody.

(Applause)

The PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Corporate Accountability International.

Now it is time for me to say farewell to distinguished delegates and the Secretariat. I wish all of you a safe journey to your country and we shall meet at the next COP in New Delhi, India. Thank you, *muchas gracias, merci beaucoup, xie xie, spahseebah, shukran*. I hereby declare the sixth session of the COP closed.

(Applause)

The meeting rose at 14:00

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