



WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

S E C R E T A R I A T

Seventy-third World Health Assembly
Intervention by the Secretariat of the
WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
Agenda item 11.2

Honourable Chair,
Honourable Ministers,
Dr Tedros, Director-General,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. I will address agenda item 11.2.

Tobacco control is indispensable to sustainable development and Target 3.a calls for strengthening implementation of the WHO FCTC. Themes presented to this session, such as healthy ageing and neurological disorders, will benefit from tobacco control, since smoking is a well-known risk factor for strokes and dementia.

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, helping to quit tobacco, eliminating exposure to second-hand smoke and increasing tobacco taxes are important to keep people healthier and to provide much needed financial resources.

I would like to emphasize the importance of safeguarding the governance of the global NCD agenda from economic interests, especially – but not only – from

those of the tobacco industry. Recommendations from policy declarations call for including the private sector in the multi-stakeholder approach to NCDs. In doing so, it is important to avoid interference from those who have placed economic interests over public health goals; and many Member States have expressed their concern on this topic.

I encourage Member States that are Parties to the treaty to comply with its Article 5.3 and protect their tobacco-control policies from the commercial interests of the tobacco industry. Article 5.3 guidelines – adapted to each case – can also serve as a blueprint for relationships with other industries. I call on other fellow UN agencies to use the model policy on preventing tobacco industry interference developed by the Convention Secretariat.

Lastly, I wish to call on Parties to the WHO FCTC to strengthen implementation of the Convention and consider becoming Parties to a second health-related treaty, the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products.

Thank you.