



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

**OPEN-ENDED INTERGOVERNMENTAL
WORKING GROUP ON THE
WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL
Second session
Provisional agenda item 3**

**A/FCTC/IGWG/2/6
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Status of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

1. At the end of the first session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control on Friday, 25 June 2004, there were 159 signatories and 22 Contracting Parties to the Convention. By Tuesday, 29 June 2004, the deadline for signing the Convention, there were 168 signatories and 23 Contracting Parties. With nearly 90% of Member States having signed within a year of its opening for signature, the Framework Convention has become one of the most rapidly embraced treaties in the United Nations system.
2. Signature indicates a State's intention to be bound by the Convention at a later date. Ratification, acceptance, approval or formal confirmation are international acts by which States or regional economic integration organizations that have already signed the Framework Convention formally express their consent to be bound by it.¹ WHO encourages those Member States and regional economic integration organizations that have signed but not ratified, approved, accepted, or formally confirmed the Convention to do so as early as possible (see Annex 2 for a model instrument of ratification).
3. States that were unable to sign by the 29 June 2004 deadline may still become Contracting Parties to the Convention by means of accession, a single-stage process equivalent to ratification. As of 29 November 2004, Armenia and Nauru have acceded to the Convention.
4. Although 40 is the minimum number of Contracting Parties for the Convention to enter into force, the goal is to have the greatest possible number of States and regional economic integration organizations ratify, accept, approve, formally confirm, or accede to the Convention in order to maximize the Convention's full potential as a global public health tool.
5. The ratification of Ghana and the accession of Armenia on 29 November 2004 brought the total number of Contracting Parties to 40 which triggered the countdown for the entry into force of the Convention. Pursuant to its Article 36, the Convention enters into force on the ninetieth day following the date of deposit of the fortieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval, formal confirmation or accession with the Depository. The Convention will thus enter into force on 27 February 2005. As of 17 December 2004, there were 47 Contracting Parties to the Convention.
6. Pursuant to Article 23, paragraph 1, of the Convention, WHO will convene the first session of the Conference of the Parties within one year of the entry into force of the Convention.

¹ "Acceptance" and "approval" have the same international legal effects as ratification. Formal confirmation is the equivalent of ratification for regional economic integration organizations such as the European Community.

ANNEX 1

Member States (by region) and regional economic integration organizations that have signed and/or become Contracting Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (as of 17 December 2004)¹

(Member States highlighted in bold have already ratified, accepted, approved, or acceded to the Framework Convention as of 17 December 2004)¹

Total: 47 Parties

Regions					
Africa (39)	The Americas (32)	South-East Asia (10)	Europe (43 + European Community)	Eastern Mediterranean (18)	Western Pacific (27)
Algeria	Argentina	Bangladesh	Albania	Afghanistan	Australia
Angola	Antigua and Barbuda	Bhutan	Armenia (a)	Djibouti	Brunei Darussalam
Benin	Bahamas	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Austria	Egypt	Cambodia
Botswana	Barbados		Belarus	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	China
Burkina Faso	Belize		Belgium		Cook Islands
Burundi	Bolivia	India	Bulgaria	Iraq	Fiji
Cameroon	Brazil	Maldives	Croatia	Jordan	Japan (A)
Cape Verde	Canada	Myanmar	Cyprus	Kuwait	Kiribati
Central African Republic	Chile	Nepal	Czech Republic	Lebanon	Lao People's Republic
Chad	Costa Rica	Sri Lanka	Denmark	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Malaysia
Comoros	Cuba	Thailand	Estonia	Morocco	Marshall Islands
Congo	Dominica	Timor-Leste	European Community	Pakistan	Micronesia (Federated States of)
Côte d'Ivoire	Ecuador		Finland	Qatar	Mongolia
Democratic Republic of the Congo	El Salvador		France (AA)	Saudi Arabia	Nauru (a)
Ethiopia	Grenada		Georgia	Sudan	New Zealand
Gabon	Guatemala		Germany	Syrian Arab Republic	Niue
Gambia	Haiti		Greece	Tunisia	Palau
Ghana	Honduras		Hungary	United Arab Emirates	Papua New Guinea
Guinea	Jamaica		Iceland	Yemen	Philippines
Kenya	Mexico		Ireland		Republic of Korea
Lesotho	Nicaragua		Israel		Samoa
Liberia	Panama		Kyrgyzstan		Singapore
Madagascar	Paraguay		Latvia		Solomon Islands
Mali	Saint Kitts and Nevis		Lithuania		Tonga
Mauritania	Saint Lucia		Luxembourg		Tuvalu
Mauritius	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		Malta		Vanuatu
Mozambique	Suriname		Netherlands		Viet Nam
Namibia	Trinidad and Tobago		Norway (AA)		
Niger	Uruguay		Poland		
Nigeria	United States of America		Portugal		
Rwanda	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)		Republic of Moldova		
Sao Tome and Principe			Romania		
Senegal			Serbia and Montenegro		
Seychelles			San Marino		
South Africa			Slovakia		
Swaziland			Slovenia		
Togo			Spain		
Uganda			Sweden		
United Republic of Tanzania			Switzerland		
			Turkey		
			Ukraine		
			United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland		
			Ireland		

¹ These Contracting Parties should be understood to have deposited their Instruments of Ratification unless otherwise indicated by one of the following codes: (A) denotes acceptance; (AA) denotes approval; (a) denotes accession

ANNEX 2

(To be signed by the Head of State, Head of Government, or Minister of Foreign Affairs)

INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION

WHEREAS the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control was adopted on 21 May 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland,

AND WHEREAS the said WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control has been signed on behalf of the Government of [name of country] on [date of country's signature of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control],

NOW THEREFORE I, [name and title of the Head of State, Head of Government, or Minister of Foreign Affairs] declare that the Government of [name of country], having considered the above-mentioned Convention, ratifies the same and undertakes faithfully to perform and carry out the stipulations therein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have signed this instrument of ratification at [place] on [date].

[Signature]

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