

Cover Note for FCA Briefing Papers related to COP Agenda Items 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5

Fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, 15-20 November 2010, Punta del Este, Uruguay

Background

The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) has been in force for nearly six years. Although the FCTC has sparked great progress in tobacco control both domestically and internationally, implementation still presents considerable challenges, particularly in low income countries and countries with economies in transition.

The need for additional resources and assistance to Parties with implementing the FCTC was foreseen already during the Convention negotiations and has been recognised regularly by the Conference of the Parties (COP).

Key Messages

There are three parallel tracks Parties should pursue when securing financial and technical assistance for treaty implementation.

1. Accessing existing financial resources for the implementation of the FCTC

Parties are encouraged to prepare their FCTC implementation strategies by completing needs assessments, identifying and prioritising capacity gaps in their implementation of the FCTC, and seeking funding from development partners to close these gaps. This is the track given priority at COP-1, and we discuss its potential and challenges in our Briefing Paper on Financial Resources and Mechanisms of Assistance.

2. Benefiting from mutual assistance of Parties and already existing international cooperation

At the same time, it is important to build new or use existing multilateral support networks. In this respect, South-to-South cooperation between countries in a specific region or cooperation among Parties that share a common language is particularly important. Adding the FCTC cooperation dimension to existing international and regional organisations will contribute to a greater mainstreaming of specific measures of the Treaty. Additionally, international organisations such as UNDP, can be mobilised to supply and channel (primarily technical) support. That is the track we deal with in our second Briefing Paper, on International Cooperation and Opportunities for the FCTC.

3. Bringing Tobacco Control and FCTC implementation to the forefront of the development agenda

Finally, the success of the previous two tracks would be greatly increased if there was a global recognition of tobacco control's impact on poverty reduction and other important development goals. The upcoming UN High Level Summit on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD Summit), to be held in September 2011, is a great opportunity and an important milestone in raising the profile of tobacco control in the development agenda. This is the topic of our Briefing Paper on the UN High Level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases.

Recommendations

FCA believes that progress should and can be achieved on all three dimensions, if Parties live up to the responsibilities to which they have committed themselves. To this end, FCA recommends a series of specific steps and urges Parties to work together to implement them.

First, FCA encourages Parties to discuss ways to enhance the mechanisms of assistance for FCTC implementation put in place during COP-1. We propose that the COP establish a working group to



evaluate current implementation assistance mechanisms and challenges in attracting funds for tobacco control initiatives, and to identify means to better mobilise sources of financing, especially in the light of emerging trends in development. Furthermore, FCA considers that it is important for Parties to provide the extrabudgetary contributions necessary for the completion of the planned implementation assistance activities.

In terms of international cooperation, it is important for Parties to explore ways to include FCTC implementation in existing international regional, and sub-regional cooperation initiatives. At the same time, the Secretariat should continue to develop and broaden its engagement with various international organisations and bodies, such as UNDAF, UNDP, and ECOSOC, and support preparations of the special meeting of the UN Ad Hoc Interagency Task Force on Tobacco Control.

The NCD Summit represents a significant opportunity to promote tobacco control as a priority for the international development agenda. FCA urges Parties to harness this opportunity. To this end, COP should support the inclusion of full and rapid implementation of measures required under the FCTC as a key goal of the international community, in the final document of the NCD Summit. COP should also support the inclusion of NCDs and tobacco control in the successor goals of the Millennium Development Goals or any subsequent global indicators of development.