

## STATEMENT OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ALLIANCE

### SIXTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

The Framework Convention Alliance (FCA) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to discussions at the Sixty-third Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, particularly issues related to **prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and the post-2015 development agenda**.

FCA congratulates WHO Member States in the African Region for their determination to tackle non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by adopting the Global Action Plan and global voluntary targets on NCDs at the 66<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly<sup>1</sup>. Noting that tobacco use is the one risk factor common to the main groups of NCDs, and that more than 40 million people are current smokers in Africa<sup>2</sup>, FCA wishes to reiterate its full support for the efforts of Member States and WHO to strengthen the **WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)** and its implementation.

Additional components of the NCD global architecture remain to be finalized, including an NCD Global Coordination Mechanism. FCA encourages WHO and its Member States to establish a coordination mechanism that builds upon already existing instruments, such as the WHO FCTC.

A coordinated response to NCDs with regards to tobacco control, as set out in the NCD Global Action Plan, is meant to support and accelerate implementation of all provisions of the WHO FCTC. The FCTC Conference of the Parties (COP) is the primary global forum for discussions on tobacco control implementation and accountability. The NCD Global Coordination Mechanism should work in synergy with the WHO FCTC.

FCA would like to also draw the attention of Member States to discussions on **the post-2015 development agenda**, including new development priorities for health. Tobacco use is a major preventable cause of disease and death, and presents a threat to sustainable development. Clear and ambitious commitments are needed to reduce the number of deaths caused by tobacco. The recently adopted global target for tobacco use prevalence (30 percent relative reduction by the year 2025)<sup>3</sup>, should serve as the technical basis for a tobacco-related target in the post-2015 development agenda.

Finally, we note that according to document **AFR/RC63/11**, *key regional priorities such as primary prevention including NCDs remain under-budgeted* (p.5) and call on Member States and WHO to step up resource mobilization to tackle the tobacco and NCD epidemics on the African continent.

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<sup>1</sup> WHA resolution WHA66.10 – Follow-up to the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases.

<sup>2</sup> UN, Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report by the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the global status of non-communicable diseases, with a particular focus on the development challenges faced by developing countries., in Follow up to the outcome of the Millennium summit. 2010, UN General Assembly: New York.

<sup>3</sup> WHA resolution WHA66.10