



## STATEMENT OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ALLIANCE

### SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE AMERICAS

The Framework Convention Alliance (FCA) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to discussions at the Sixty-fifth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Americas, particularly on agenda item 4.5, **Plan of Action for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases** and on item 4.10, **Health in the Post-2015 Development Agenda**.

FCA congratulates WHO Member States in the Region of the Americas for their determination to tackle noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) by adopting the Global Action Plan and the global voluntary targets on NCDs at the 66<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly<sup>1</sup>. Noting that tobacco use is the only risk factor common to the four major groups of NCDs, and that there are 145 million adults in the Americas who smoke<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. 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 NCD Global Coordination Mechanism should work in synergy with the WHO FCTC. The FCTC Conference of the Parties (COP) is the primary global forum for discussions on tobacco control implementation and accountability.

FCA would also like to highlight the critical importance of including tobacco control in **the post-2015 development agenda**. Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable disease and death worldwide, including in the Americas, and presents a threat to sustainable development. Clear and ambitious commitments are needed to reduce the burden of disease and 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 **CD52/INF/4**, *establishing, strengthening, and allocating resources for coordinating units and technical units responsible for tobacco control continues to be a challenge* (para 14), therefore, FCA calls on Member States and WHO to increase resource mobilization and political commitment to tackle the tobacco and NCD epidemics in the Region of the Americas.

---

<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> Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). 2011. Non-communicable diseases in the Americas: building a healthier future. Washington, D. C.: PAHO

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