



STATEMENT OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ALLIANCE

SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHO SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

The Framework Convention Alliance (FCA) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to discussions at the Sixty-sixth Session of the Regional Committee of the WHO South-East Asia Region, particularly on agenda item 4.5: **Regional Action Plan and Targets for Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases**.

FCA congratulates WHO Member States in the South-East Asia Region for their determination to tackle noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) by adopting the Global Action Plan and global voluntary targets on NCDs at the 66th World Health Assembly¹. Noting that tobacco use is the one risk factor common to the main groups of NCDs, and that 1.4 million people die each year in the Region due to tobacco use², 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 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)³, should serve as the technical basis for a tobacco-related target in the post-2015 development agenda.

Finally, FCA supports recommendation contained in document **SEA/RC66/10**: that Member States should develop or strengthen national action plans for the prevention and control of NCDs and set national targets based on country context, taking into account global and regional action plans and voluntary targets.

¹ 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.

² Profile on Implementation of WHO FCTC in the South-East Asia Region (2011) WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, New Delhi

³ WHA resolution WHA66.10