



STATEMENT OF FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ALLIANCE

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

Framework Convention Alliance (FCA) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to discussions at the Sixty-seventh Session of the Regional Committee of the WHO South-East Asia Region, particularly on agenda item 7: **Programme Budget matters**, and agenda item 9.9: **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 non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by adopting the Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of NCDs in July 2014¹. 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.

As highlighted in the document SEA/RC67/23, key challenges to addressing the NCD epidemic and to implementing the FCTC in the region include ineffective enforcement of policies and legislation, inadequate human resources and limited multisectoral partnerships. According to the draft proposed budget 2016-2017, less than 5 percent of the regional budget is expected to be allocated to support member states' efforts to prevent and control NCDs³, which we consider inadequate. Additionally, none of the meeting documents describe the involvement of other UN agencies, international partners, and civil society in supporting country and regional work to address NCDs.

FCA fully supports the recommendations contained in document **SEA/RC67/23** that Member States should set national targets for the prevention and control of NCDs and develop costed national multisectoral action plans, and that WHO should assist in building national capacity and provide technical assistance for developing and implementing national NCD multisectoral policies and action plans. But we believe that larger budgetary allocations and contributions from the entire UN system and additional international partners would further strengthen national responses. Member states should also be provided with a clear overview of technical support that is available within the UN system to strengthen their response to NCDs.

Finally, FCA would like to draw the attention of Member States to the **sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP)** to the WHO FCTC, which will take place later this year (13-18 October, 2014). In particular, the COP is expected to review sustainable measures to strengthen implementation of the Convention and consider several tools that should support Parties in **mobilizing additional resources** and generating **increased political will** for tobacco control.

¹ UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/68/300.

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

³ According to the document SEA/RC67/8 Inf.Doc.1 (p.98) the total budget for the SEA Regional Office is 347.4 million USD, but only 16.3 million USD is allocated for noncommunicable diseases (all numbers are for the country and regional work combined).