



IWG Monday

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Pocas ratificaciones en América Latina

Hasta ahora, **México** es el único país de América Latina que ratificó el CMCT. Ningún otro país americano — ni siquiera países como Brasil y Canadá, que ya tienen fuertes leyes de control del tabaco — ha completado su proceso de ratificación, aunque la Cámara de Diputados de Brasil ya aprobó el Convenio.

Tres países de América Latina todavía no han firmado el Convenio: Colombia, Cuba y la República Dominicana.

Fuera de las Américas, **20 países** ya ratificaron; 92 países firmaron el Convenio pero no lo han ratificado, 56 países todavía no lo han firmado.

**DEATH
CLOCK**

Since the opening of the first working group for the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control on 25 October 1999,

18,738,216 people have died from tobacco-related diseases.

(At 9 am 21 June 2004)

ALLIANCE BULLETIN

Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

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Smart germs and tobacco

One of the scary things about germs is their ability to outwit scientists and doctors.

Come up with a new antibiotic against tuberculosis, and you can be sure that within a few years, a resistant strain of TB bacteria will emerge. Take rigorous quarantine measures against SARS, and it's a fair bet that somewhere, sometime, the virus will crop up again. And don't even bother to develop a vaccine against the common cold, because the virus will mutate beyond recognition before you can deploy it.

One could be forgiven for imagining that there's some Germ Central Command where mad scientists craft diabolical mutant germs to outwit the world's medical community.

But there isn't. Viruses and bacteria obey no Central Command, and have as much intelligence as cement blocks. Their mutation is completely random; natural selection ensures that only the 'useful' mutants — useful to the germs, that is — survive.

However, there is one major disease that *does* have a Central Command: tobacco addiction. In much of the world, it's spread by just three cigarette companies: Philip Morris, British American Tobacco and Japan Tobacco International.

They work hard to establish global brands, take over entire sports (e.g. car racing), work out common legal strategies and elaborate PR strategies. They hire scientists to claim the risks of smoking (or second-hand smoking) have been exaggerated. They conduct studies on the psychology of teenagers, to ensure their brands remain 'relevant' to kids.

When governments raise tobacco taxes, or try to keep out foreign companies through tariffs or legislation, companies rely on massive smuggling operations to get their products to market anyway. But mostly, they try to stop government action before it happens, through heavy lobbying and economic intimidation.

Being quite a bit smarter than cement blocks, cigarette companies have successfully taken their disease — tobacco addiction, causing death in 50% of cases (for cigarettes) — to the

top of Death and Disease charts. Within a few years, tobacco will be claiming 10 million lives per year, 70% of those in developing countries.

The centralized nature of the cigarette epidemic explains its peculiar virulence. It also makes it much more vulnerable to centralized disease-control

(Continued on page 2)



« BE ON EDGE » plutôt que « BENSON & HEDGES ».

Depuis octobre 2003, la publicité liée au parrainage des événements sportifs est interdite au Canada. Les gouvernements du Canada et du Québec ont accepté de payer 12 millions \$ aux organisateurs de la Formule Un pour compenser la perte de revenus publicitaires. Sans doute pour montrer leur gratitude, les écuries ont légèrement modifié les slogans — comme elles le font au Royaume-Uni, où aucune interdiction n'est encore en vigueur.

Today's Weather: Sunny
High 22 °C Low 11 °C

(Continued from page 1)

efforts. It's impossible to control the behaviour of trillions of stupid viruses, each churning out new mutations at random. But it *is* possible, through concerted national and international efforts, to control the behaviour of a handful of smart cigarette companies.

A clear example of this is Brazil. Despite its large tobacco industry — it's the world's biggest exporter of tobacco leaf — Brazil has put in place most of the measures contained in the FCTC, from curbs on advertising to increasingly effective restrictions on smoking in public places and workplaces.

Unlike most developing countries, Brazil is seeing a drop in cigarette consumption and smoking prevalence. Indeed, according to recently released data, smoking rates in some areas of the country are as low as 13%.

But even a country as large as Brazil is vulnerable to tobacco's Central Command if it attempts to do everything alone. Formula One racing is immensely popular; Michael 'Marlboro' Schumacher is constantly visible on TV, whatever laws Brazil does or does not apply. Smuggling is a huge problem, due largely to lack of international co-operation.

As we sit here this week, discussing the finer points of procedure for the Conference of Parties, it's important to measure proposals against a simple question: Do these proposals make it easier for the international community to control cigarette multinationals?

Or do they help Central Command to infect more of the world with the 'smart germ' of tobacco addiction?

— Francis Thompson,
Non-Smokers' Rights Association
(Canada)

Who has ratified? (as of 18 June 2004)

1. Bangladesh	6. Iceland	14. Myanmar
2. Brunei Darussalam	7. India	15. New Zealand
3. Cook Islands	8. Japan	16. Norway
4. Fiji	9. Malta	17. Palau
5. Hungary	10. Maldives	18. Seychelles
	11. Mauritius	19. Singapore
	12. Mexico	20. Slovakia
	13. Mongolia	21. Sri Lanka

Signed, but not ratified

1. Algeria	29. Czech Republic	57. Kiribati	87. Samoa
2. Argentina	30. D.P.R. Korea	58. Kuwait	88. San Marino
3. Australia	31. Denmark	59. Kyrgyzstan	89. Sao Tome and Principe
4. Austria	32. Djibouti	60. Latvia	90. Senegal
5. Belarus	33. Ecuador	61. Lebanon	91. Slovenia
6. Belgium	34. Egypt	62. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	92. Solomon Islands
7. Belize	35. El Salvador	63. Lithuania	93. South Africa
8. Benin	36. Estonia	64. Luxembourg	94. Spain
9. Bhutan	37. Ethiopia	65. Madagascar	95. Sudan
10. Bolivia	38. European Community	66. Malaysia	96. Sweden
11. Botswana	39. Finland	67. Mali	97. Syrian Arab Republic
12. Brazil	40. France	68. Marshall Islands	98. Tanzania
13. Bulgaria	41. Gabon	69. Morocco	99. Thailand
14. Burkina Faso	42. Gambia	70. Mozambique	100. Timor-Leste
15. Burundi	43. Georgia	71. Namibia	101. Togo
16. Cambodia	44. Germany	72. Nepal	102. Tonga
17. Cameroon	45. Ghana	73. Netherlands	103. Trinidad and Tobago
18. Canada	46. Greece	74. Nicaragua	104. Tunisia
19. Cape Verde	47. Guatemala	75. Niue	105. Turkey
20. Central African Republic	48. Guinea	76. Pakistan	106. Tuvalu
21. Chile	49. Haiti	77. Panama	107. Uganda
22. China	50. Honduras	78. Paraguay	108. United Kingdom
23. Comoros	51. Iran	79. Peru	109. United States of America
24. Congo	52. Ireland	80. Philippines	110. Uruguay
25. Costa Rica	53. Israel	81. Poland	111. Vanuatu
26. Cote d'Ivoire	54. Italy	82. Portugal	112. Venezuela
27. Croatia	55. Jamaica	83. Qatar	113. Vietnam
28. Cyprus	56. Jordan	84. Republic of Korea	114. Yemen
		85. Rwanda	
		86. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	

On your side — if you'll let us

Does this sound like a country you know? A fresh-faced young public health graduate starts work at the Ministry. He knows just how much damage lung cancer and other tobacco-caused diseases are doing to his country. He's read reports from WHO and the World Bank, and wants to implement the measures.

His Minister encourages him to consult on a Plan.

"Economic madness!" cries the Ministry of Finance. "Why, just look at the shiny new factory the tobacco industry just built."

"State interference in business," splutters the Department of Labour. "Nanny statism!" says the Department of Health. "Career suicide," warns George's old classmate, who tells him he's ruffling too many feathers with this tobacco nonsense. He should stop now, or he'll find himself pushing paper in

a small town far, far away from the national capital.

Over the border, the scenario is different. NGOs publicly point out the absurdity of the tobacco industry's arguments: there is not a country in the world where the money spent on tobacco would not be better spent buying food or education for the poor. The work in the shiny new cigarette factory is done by imported machines and a few low-paid workers. The profits go to multinational shareholders.

The tobacco industry has deep pockets and seductive voices, but very few good arguments. Where they are not challenged by civil society, tobacco's cash and connections carry the day.

Indeed, in the industrialized countries where the cigarette epidemic first got started, it was the industry's ability to buy the silence of potential challengers that delayed the implementation of tobacco-control measures by several decades (and still does, in several places).

NGO participation in FCTC discussions is one of the best insurance policies that countries can have against the tobacco companies buying their way to the table and corrupting the process.



Skill-testing question for IWG delegates:
What will the Death Clock (p.1) read by the end of this week?

These countries have yet to sign

Deadline: 29 June 2004

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Afghanistan | 20. Grenada | 38. Oman |
| 2. Albania | 21. Guinea-Bissau | 39. Papua New Guinea |
| 3. Andorra | 22. Guyana | 40. Republic of Moldova |
| 4. Angola | 23. Indonesia | 41. Romania |
| 5. Antigua and Barbuda | 24. Iraq | 42. Russian Federation |
| 6. Armenia | 25. Kazakhstan | 43. Saint Kitts and Nevis |
| 7. Azerbaijan | 26. Kenya | 44. Saint Lucia |
| 8. Bahamas | 27. Lao P.D.R. | 45. Saudi Arabia |
| 9. Bahrain | 28. Lesotho | 46. Serbia and Montenegro |
| 10. Barbados | 29. Liberia | 47. Sierra Leone |
| 11. Bosnia and Herzegovina | 30. Liechtenstein | 48. Somalia |
| 12. Chad | 31. Malawi | 49. Suriname |
| 13. Colombia | 32. Mauritania | 50. Swaziland |
| 14. Cuba | 33. Micronesia (Federated States of) | 51. Switzerland |
| 15. D.R. of the Congo | 34. Monaco | 52. Tajikistan |
| 16. Dominica | 35. Nauru | 53. The F.Y.R. of Macedonia |
| 17. Dominican Republic | 36. Niger | 54. Turkmenistan |
| 18. Equatorial Guinea | 37. Nigeria | 55. Ukraine |
| 19. Eritrea | | 56. United Arab Emirates |
| | | 57. Uzbekistan |
| | | 58. Zambia |
| | | 59. Zimbabwe |

What does the Framework Alliance want from the IWG?

The FCTC has tremendous potential to reduce the pain, suffering and economic losses caused by tobacco use, but this potential can only be realized if the treaty is provided with strong procedural and financial mechanisms and a strong, independent secretariat free from interference from countries that have not ratified the FCTC.

The following issues are of special importance to us:

Participation by civil society

- Accreditation of observers
- Access and right to participate as observers
- Right to make written and spoken interventions
- Standard administrative and support provision to accredited NGOs

Other rules of procedure

- Voting rules should allow action by a two-thirds majority
- Rapid development and adoption of protocols on advertising and illicit trade in tobacco products
- Adequate funding for FCTC implementation and early completion of the Secretariat's report on financial resources
- First COP meeting should be held as quickly as possible
- COP should meet annually thereafter

Effective implementation of reporting requirements

- COP should create an expert body to oversee the reporting process
- The reporting process should emphasize transparency and minimize secrecy.
- The reporting process should involve specialized agencies, NGOs and other experts.

The guiding principles for all signatories to the FCTC attending the IWG should be to be alert and ensure that the "priority to their right to protect public health" is not jeopardized in any way.

Awards Time Again!

This week, by popular demand, the FCA will once again be awarding a daily Orchid and Dirty Ashtray to the countries that do best and worst in advancing the FCTC, whether here at the IWG or at home in the signature, ratification and implementation process.

Countries may win more than one award — previous ashtray-holders may receive orchids for major improvements, while backsliders can expect their orchids to wilt, burn up and emit a peculiarly stale and smoky odour. The awards are as much for effort as for outcome.

We will make one promise: we will not be distributing any more Dirty Ashtray Lifetime Achievement Awards. After we crowned one nameless American country between Canada and Mexico with this title a few years ago, one delegate cut it out and wore it atop his badge. Not the attitude we had in mind!

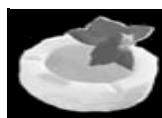
Dirty Ashtray Award

To Indonesia, the only country we know to have publicly declared it will not sign the FCTC.



Orchid Award

To Norway, for being the first country to ratify, and to the 20 other countries that have since done so.



FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ALLIANCE

The Framework Convention Alliance (FCA) is an alliance of NGOs from around the world working to achieve the strongest possible Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Views expressed in the *Alliance Bulletin* are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent those of the sponsors.

Framework Convention Alliance
7, Place du Molard
CH 1204
Geneva, Switzerland
Fax. +1 202 659 43 10
FCA@globalink.org
www.fctc.org