This document relates to item 8.3 of the provisional agenda and corresponds to documents FCTC/COP/8/16 and FCTC/COP/8/INF.DOC./2

Eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, 1 - 6 October 2018, Geneva, Switzerland

Proposed workplan and budget for the financial period 2020-2021

Key Recommendations

• FCA recommends that the amount of the budget to be covered by Parties’ Assessed Contributions be increased, in line with the Secretariat’s proposal. This increase in funds is necessary to ensure that core work to advance FCTC implementation takes place. At present, all of the intersessional work outlined in the workplan and budget depends on the availability of extrabudgetary funding, which should not be the case.
• Should COP8 endorse the Global Strategy to Accelerate Tobacco Control, it will be critical that Parties amend the proposed 2020-2021 workplan and budget to reflect the priorities identified in this document. This may require that some workplan and budget activities be amended to more closely align with the Global Strategy.
• In particular, FCA recommends that the following areas of work be prioritized in the 2020-2021 workplan and budget, in line with the Global Strategy:
  o Providing assistance to Parties to develop, update and implement costed multisectoral national tobacco control plans and strategies,
  o Operationalizing an FCTC Implementation Review Mechanism,
  o Supporting a working group with a mandate to develop a comprehensive FCTC Investment Case and Fundraising Strategy based on the Global Strategy,
  o Developing a communications strategy to raise awareness of the Global Strategy,
  o Updating the reporting instrument to facilitate data collection on Global Strategy indicators and measurement of progress,
• COP8 should also ensure that the Workplan and Budget provides travel support for low- and middle-income country Parties to attend FCTC-related meetings.

Why this is important

By adopting an FCTC budget and workplan at each session of the COP, Parties agree on their priorities for FCTC activities in coming years. At COP8, Parties will review the interim performance report for the 2018-19 workplan and budget and will adopt a new workplan and budget for 2020-21. At COP8, Parties may also decide to adopt a new strategic plan for the COP as a whole (the ‘Global Strategy’), which will have a number of important implications for the 2020-21 budget and workplan.
Proposed 2020-2021 Workplan and Budget

For the 2020-2021 biennium, the Convention Secretariat is proposing a budget of US$22,315,921. This sum includes salary and activity costs related to work on the FCTC, as well as the 13 percent mandatory programme support costs payable to the World Health Organization (WHO). Now that the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products has entered into force, the COP workplans and budgets will no longer include activities related to the Protocol. Parties to the Protocol will approve a separate workplan dedicated to the Protocol at each Meeting of the Parties (MOP), which will be funded through a separate, dedicated pool of funds.

The predictable funding for the budget, which comes from Assessed Contributions (ACs), is expected to amount to US$9,608,391. This means that the remaining funding for the financial period – US$12,707,530 – will need to be raised by the Convention Secretariat in the form of extrabudgetary contributions in order for a number of activities to take place. This amount of predictable funding, which is proposed to be covered by ACs in the 2020-2021 workplan and budget, has increased by 9.2 percent compared to the amount agreed by the COP for the current 2018-2019 biennium.

FCA supports the Secretariat’s request for this increase in ACs. In the past 10 years, there has been no increase in ACs - in fact as additional countries have become Party to the Convention, the size of existing Parties’ individual ACs has decreased slightly. This lack of growth has made it difficult for the Secretariat to carry out its ‘core’ functions, such as supporting intersessional work, providing implementation assistance to Parties, and organizing future COP sessions. At the same time, the increased number of Parties to the Convention has resulted in further demand on the Secretariat’s resources.

In the 2020-21 workplan and budget, many core FCTC functions are slated to be covered, at least in part, by extrabudgetary funding, which leaves them vulnerable should this funding not be mobilised. This should not be the case. At COP8, Parties should support an increase in ACs that will guarantee that core functions of the FCTC can take place in 2020-21.

The 2020-2021 Budget and workplan must reflect the priorities agreed in the Global Strategy, if adopted

Each proposed FCTC budget is accompanied by a draft workplan – an overview of activities proposed for a given biennium by the Convention Secretariat. Workplan activities are divided into six areas, ranging from development of technical guidelines to maintenance of the reporting instrument or coordination with international organizations. The draft FCTC workplan indicates the resources that are required to carry out each activity and notes whether the activity should be funded through ACs or extrabudgetary funding. The workplan proposal may change significantly in order to reflect all decisions taken during the COP.

One potential decision at COP8, in particular, will have a number of important implications for the 2020-21 workplan and budget. Under provisional agenda item 7.1, Parties will be invited to endorse the Global Strategy for Tobacco Control, the first ever strategic plan for the FCTC and COP as a whole. The Global Strategy sets a target to reduce tobacco use prevalence by 30% by 2025, and outlines a plan for how to achieve this target. The plan entails a focus on a small number of priority areas of work, chosen for their potential to have the most impact on reducing tobacco use prevalence.
As agreed at COP7\(^1\), this Strategy, if adopted, is intended to inform the COP workplans and budgets. The Strategy itself also notes that the implementation of the Strategy will require that these two documents are aligned.\(^2\) As noted in the preamble of the Global Strategy, this document will be “an important tool to manage increased demands and limited resources while ensuring the effectiveness of the work of the WHO FCTC Convention Secretariat”\(^3\).

**FCA’s recommendations on priorities for the 2020-2021 workplan and budget**

The current version of the proposed workplan and budget for the 2020-2021 biennium (document FCTC/COP/8/16) has not been developed with the Global Strategy in mind. FCA strongly supports the adoption of the Global Strategy. Should COP8 decide to endorse this plan, Parties in committee B should carefully review and re-work the budget to reflect the priority areas of work identified in the Strategy and highlighted in the section below. With limited funds available, Parties will also need to decide what should happen to activities included in the proposed workplan and budget that are not identified as priorities in the Strategy. If these two documents are not aligned, it will divert time and resources away from achieving the targets outlined in the Global Strategy.

**Providing Implementation Assistance for Parties to develop, update, and implement national tobacco control plan and strategies**

The Global Strategy sets high-level priorities for work, but the existence of the document alone will not create change. Achieving the goals and targets in the Strategy will require that Parties, observers, and other relevant stakeholders take action in line with the Strategy.

For Parties, this will require that they develop, update, and implement their own costed, multisectoral national tobacco control plans and strategies to reflect the priority areas of work identified in the Global Strategy, as appropriate to their national circumstances. The Global Strategy calls on Parties to do just this under Strategic Objective 1.1.1 (p. 6 of FCTC/COP/8/11). Specific objective 1.2 of the Strategy also notes that “the Convention Secretariat will provide Parties with targeted assistance to develop and implement costed national plans for tobacco control”.

At COP8, Parties should ensure that the 2020-2021 workplan and budget includes activities related to the provision of support to Parties to develop and implement these plans.

**Conducting a pilot project of an FCTC Implementation Review Mechanism and establishing a more permanent mechanism**

Specific objective 3.1.2 of the Global Strategy calls for the establishment, by 2020, of an FCTC Implementation Review Mechanism. This mechanism would take the form of a peer-led committee that would review Parties’ existing and future implementation reports, in an effort to better understand gaps in and obstacles to progress on tobacco control, and to provide a basis for targeted support to address these gaps and challenges.

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\(^1\) See decision FCTC/COP7(13), which establishes the mandate for the Working Group on measures to strengthen implementation of the Convention through coordination and cooperation. Available at: http://www.who.int/entity/fctc/cop/cop7/FCTC_COP7(13)_EN.pdf?ua=1

\(^2\) For example, see FCTC/COP/8/11, para 14, Annex 2 para 3(a), and others

\(^3\) FCTC/COP/8/11, Annex 1
As noted in document FCTC/COP/8/11, the Working Group that has drafted the Strategy has proposed that should the Strategy be adopted at COP8, a ‘pilot project’ of the mechanism should take place. It is proposed that this pilot project would provide an opportunity for Parties to become familiar with how this mechanism works, as well as to propose amendments to the Terms of Reference for the mechanism that would help to ensure it is best suited to Parties’ needs.

FCA strongly supports the establishment of this mechanism and the commencement of this pilot project. If the Strategy is adopted at COP8, such a project might begin immediately following COP8 in 2018 and would report back to COP9 in 2020. As such, it is important that COP8 prioritise funding for this mechanism to operate for the entirety of the 2020-2021 budget cycle. COP8 should maintain the line item currently included in FCTC/COP/8/16 (section 2.1(c), page 5), which allocates US$280,000 for this mechanism.

**Supporting a working group with a mandate to address the global financing gap for FCTC implementation**

A lack of sustainable funding for global tobacco control has been a major impediment to implementing the FCTC. This is recognized in the preamble to the Global Strategy, and the document includes an entire operational objective on the topic of “Sustainable Funding” (Operational Objective 1, p. 10 of FCTC/COP/8/11).

If the Global Strategy is adopted at COP8, a concerted effort will be required to raise substantial additional funds to support Parties’ efforts to tackle the tobacco epidemic at the national level, as well as to bolster the Secretariat’s funding to deliver on commitments in the FCTC budget and workplan. At the same time, the Global Strategy can help to make strong new arguments for investment in FCTC implementation.

In document FCTC/COP/8/18, the Convention Secretariat has proposed establishing a working group to explore the establishment of an FCTC ‘investment fund’ as a means to raise resources to support the FCTC’s budget. FCA supports the idea of establishing such a working group, but recommends that the focus of the group’s work should be on addressing the financing gap for FCTC implementation at the national level, in addition to fundraising to cover costs related to the Convention Secretariat’s workplan and budget.

Additionally, such a working group might be tasked with building an *FCTC Investment Case and Fundraising Strategy* tied to the Global Strategy. An investment case should outline a clear rationale to potential funders on why they should invest in FCTC implementation and what sort of returns on investment they might expect, while a fundraising strategy might identify a range of financing sources and mechanisms, including the ‘investment fund’ outlined in document FCTC/COP/8/18.

COP8 should ensure that the 2020-2021 workplan and budget includes funding for such a working group to develop an *Investment Case and Fundraising Strategy*, and to report to COP9. Core funding should be allocated through 2020, when the next COP session would take place.

**Updating the FCTC reporting instrument and process to support implementation of the Strategy**

An important part of implementing the Strategy will be monitoring the COP’s progress towards the objectives and overall targets that it includes. To accomplish this, the COP needs a) a mechanism to
collect data from Parties about how they are progressing towards these targets at the national level and b) baseline data for each of the indicators outlined in the Global Strategy.

The current version of the 2020-2021 workplan and budget includes an entire section (section 3, page 6) dedicated to reporting, with associated funding of US$400 000. However, FCA recommends that this section be updated in several ways.

First, the workplan should include work by the Secretariat to update the reporting instrument so that it aligns with the Strategy. This may require adding sub-questions to the various elements of the reporting framework or adding new questions entirely. The Secretariat should also be mandated to begin collecting baseline data for each of the indicators.

COP8 may also wish to note that for COP9, the Secretariat should be mandated to present a progress report on implementation of the Global Strategy, rather than the Global Progress Report on implementation that has traditionally been prepared.

**Developing and executing a communications plan for the Global Strategy**

Parties should ensure that the 2020-2021 workplan and budget includes activities and funding to support the Secretariat to develop and execute a communications plan for the Global Strategy, as specified under specific objective 2.1.5.

A communications plan is an important tool to raise awareness of the Global Strategy and to encourage Parties, COP observers, and other relevant stakeholders to align their activities with the Strategy. Such a plan should identify target groups and define key messages for each. The Secretariat should also review existing communications tools and identify possible new ones. Finally, a communications strategy might also involve regional awareness-raising workshops or the creation of factsheets on the Global Strategy.

**Travel support for low- and middle-income country Parties**

During past COP sessions, discussions on the FCTC budget have also touched on the important issue of providing travel support for government delegates from low- and middle-income country Parties to participate in FCTC meetings. FCA maintains the view that COP should ensure that resources are allocated to fund the participation of delegates from low- and middle-income countries. These countries bear the greatest burden of tobacco-related deaths, and their participation and informed discussion at FCTC-related meetings is essential for the work of the Convention and for making progress on global tobacco control.