



FCA PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

Framework Convention Alliance

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Dates to remember

Integrating SDG Target 3.a into national & global SDG agendas

The Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) together with the UN Inter-Agency Task Force (UNIATF) on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases recently held a successful virtual side event to the [High-level Political Forum 2020](#), (HLPF) under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The purpose of the event was to highlight progress made towards integration of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 3.a, "Strengthen the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries..." into national and global agendas.

The event was moderated by Dr Adriana Blanco Marquizo, Head of the Secretariat of the WHO FCTC, who gave an overview of the FCTC and the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products and remarked that the WHO FCTC is one of just three international conventions referenced in the Sustainable Development Goals and their related targets. She also introduced the Guide to WHO

FCTC Parties on Including SDG Target 3.a in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) completed by the team at FCA. These reviews are part of a regular follow-up and assessment of progress towards the SDGs and provide an opportunity to share experiences and lessons learned in their pursuit.



Dr Adriana Blanco Marquizo, Head of the WHO FCTC Secretariat

Despite implementation of the FCTC being recognized as a development issue, Target 3.a has been omitted from the majority of VNRs submitted since 2016. The VNR Guide showcases six countries that integrated FCTC implementation into their VNRs, explores barriers to a lack of inclusion of Target 3.a through four anonymous case studies and makes recommendations for countries to consider in the future.

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Participants in Panel I of the side event focused on country experiences to include SDG Target 3.a in their VNR with presentations from Palau, Panama and India. The focus of Panel II was the WHO FCTC and the UN experience. Industry interference and progress in implementing the ‘Model policy preventing tobacco industry interference among UN agencies’ was reviewed. The panel also included a discussion on how UN system agencies are responding to the UN Secretary-General’s call for the entire UN system to avoid engagement with the tobacco industry.

Panel II was followed by a brief presentation by Francis Thompson, FCA’s Executive Director Strategy and Policy, on the integration of the WHO FCTC in the SDG agenda where he underscored the importance of raising tobacco taxes to bring in revenue to address the SDG agenda.

After a few brief questions and answers, the side event concluded with a summary of the

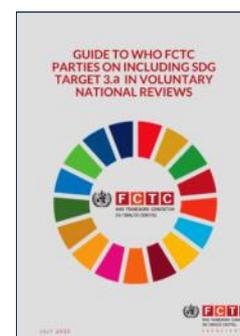
presentations and Dr. Blanco Marquizo reminding all that we need to make the FCTC message a universal one. See [here](#) for the full news story from Convention Secretariat and recording of the event.

“Including Target 3.a in a VNR is an important element in raising awareness of implementation of the WHO FCTC. This can highlight achievements, learning from peers and strengthened connections between the WHO FCTC and sustainable development by showcasing positive impacts at many levels of WHO FCTC implementation”

[Guide to WHO FCTC Parties](#) on including SDG Target 3.a in VNRs Convention Secretariat, 2020



Francis Thompson, FCA’s Executive Director Strategy and Policy



Pathway to leaving no-one behind

Palau’s Minister of Health, Dr. Emais Roberts, was invited to participate in a virtual side event to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on SDG Target 3.a and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)



Dr. Emais Roberts, Minister of Health, Republic of Palau

Dr. Roberts made three key points starting with the linkage between the FCTC and the 2030 agenda, followed by Palau’s incorporation of Target 3.a into their VNR which was presented at last year’s HLPF and

finally, a reflection on the FCTC and SDG3 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Roberts commented on how the COVID19 pandemic gives new importance to our efforts to drive progress on the SDGs. He commented “in short, Target 3.a and FCTC implementation are not a luxury in these times of pandemic – but a pathway to greater resilience. They are a pathway to leaving no-one behind, and we need to re-double our efforts to protecting the most vulnerable”. Further information on Palau’s inclusion of the WHO FCTC in their VNR can be found [here](#).

Tobacco tax increase in Nauru

Effective July 1, import duties on tobacco products increased by 20%. The new price for a pack of 20 sticks is AU\$18, up from the previous AU\$15. An increase of 3% last occurred in 2018/2019.

The Ministry of Health attributes this success to the hard work of the Naoero Public Health team to raise awareness on the dangers of tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure.

To garner support for the tax increase, the Public Health team embarked on a NCD education campaign in 2019 - Every Life Matters: Our Choice for a Healthy Future - that covered several aspects of NCD prevention. A tobacco road show was conducted covering 10 of the 14 districts on the island and educated communities on the dangers of tobacco use, and second-

hand smoke. Information was provided on relevant tobacco legislation and a session was held for business owners and key stakeholders.

Also in support of the campaign, training was delivered for health workers on behavior change counseling and smoking cessation. The Nauru cessation guidelines are currently under development and further training on cessation and behavior counseling are planned for 2020.

Other upcoming activities include supporting Cabinet submission for Amendments to Nauru's Tobacco Control Act of 2009, making schools and workplaces smoke free, and strengthening enforcement, and establishing a cessation clinic.



Papua New Guinea participates in FCTC Implementation Review Mechanism pilot project

Papua New Guinea is one of the 12 WHO FCTC Parties that voluntarily participated in the pilot project exercise for the Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM). The pilot project stemmed from Objective 3.2.1 of the Global Strategy to Accelerate Tobacco Control: Advancing Sustainable Development through the Implementation of the WHO FCTC 2019–2025” (GS2025) and was adopted by the Conference of the Parties in 2018. GS2025 represents the continued effort to strengthen the operations and implementation of the WHO FCTC. Objective 3.2.1 calls for the establishment of a WHO FCTC IRM. Papua New Guinea through participation in this pilot, will

capture WHO FCTC implementation progress and will receive expert advice on good practices to overcome challenges. The expert reports are currently being finalized and will be made available to the Party.

Niue passes tobacco control regulations

Niue's comprehensive tobacco control legislation of December 2018 was put to effect with the passing of regulations in April of this year. The regulations cover licensing, testing and reporting, signage and packaging and labeling requirements. Among the regulations is a set license fee for importation of tobacco products in the amount of NZ\$5,000. Niue has the lowest tobacco use and strongest tobacco control legislation in the Pacific.

WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY 2020



Fiji Cancer Society (FCS) was interviewed on Fiji's Breakfast at Fiji One



FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Banners in the F.S.M.



In Federated States of Micronesia, Q&A video produced and shared on social media



NIUE

Mokom e kona n urua
ke ni ka aoraka
maamaam ao bwain
rabwatam riki tabeua
ao ni kona naba ni ka-
korakora riki reken ana
kanganga te aoraki ae te
COVID-19



KIRIBATI

WHO information translated into iKiribati



NAURU

Youth rally in Nauru

MARSHALL ISLANDS

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
P.O. Box 16 – Majuro – Marshall Islands – 96960
Telephone: (692) 625-5327 Email: sechbs.rmi@gmail.com

Ij Kelet Mour, JAAB non TOBACCO 2020

WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY GLOBALLY * MAY 31ST *

- > A Majuro Atoll Local Government memo requested a "24 hour ban on sales of tobacco products on May 31." With the partnership with KUMIT BOBRAE COALITION and MALGov we were able to inspect 223 stores to see if they were in compliance to the Honorable Mayor Ladie Jack's letter. Out of the 223 outlets, ONLY 15 stores were not complying with the letter.
- > The Secretary of Health and Human Services Jack Niedenthal gave his statement on COVID-19 and the risks of TOBACCO.

No tobacco product sales in Majuro for WNTD

COOK ISLANDS

TE MARAE ORA
COOK ISLANDS

WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

Quit smoking for COVID-19

COVID-19. It damages your lungs and weakens your immune system. mākina it hāntar for the

PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES
WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

2020

A Brief Summary of Activities in Words and Pictures

For an e-copy of WNTD booklet, contact the [coordinator](#).

WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY 2020



SOLOMON ISLANDS

Held youth empowerment training. In photo are Youth Leaders from workshop on COVID-19 and dangers of tobacco use



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PNG Cancer Foundation shared on social media platforms, a 2-minute video which captured Dr Sapuri's message to the public in support of WNTD.



"Protect our Ocean and Marine Life
-BUTTS OUT!"

PALAU
theme focused on protection of ocean and marine life



VANUATU

Won Smolbag Theatre and Rainbow Disability Theatre produced a video and song on tobacco



SAMOA

Samoa Cancer Society held a poster contest



TUVALU

Youth marched against the tobacco industry



TONGA

The church congregation and guests at the Free Wesleyan Centenary Church commemorated WNTD



The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Palau was the proud recipient of a WHO WNTD award for the Western Pacific Region

Samoa Cancer Society – A Change in CEO

A change in Chief Executive Officer (CEO) recently took place at the Samoa Cancer Society (SCS). After six years of successfully driving SCS’s operations, Shelley Burich decided to pursue her passion of commercial vanilla farming.

Upon Burich’s resignation, the President of the Board of the SCS, Lauaki Jason Annandale praised her as an “integral member of the SCS for six years; leading the daily work of the National Cancer Resource Centre team, passionately advocating for the Society’s objectives, empathetically supporting patients, conscientiously building the evidence, and determinedly developing the capacity of the staff and the organisation”.

Reflecting on her time at SCS Burich stated that “being at the community grassroots level opened my eyes and heart to the challenges and issues cancer patients and their families endure every single day of their cancer

journey with limited or no support being offered to them. This has been my drive throughout these years; the drive to help, the drive to make a difference and the drive to put a smile on the face of a cancer patient knowing that they are not alone in this emotional and sometimes painful journey”.

The SCS Executive Board has appointed Su’a John Ryan to take over as SCS’s new CEO.

Ryan has a wealth of private sector and CSO/NGO experience, has held operational and governance leadership positions, and has an extensive network of contacts. Ryan expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Community and is keen to begin work. He said that

he appreciated the groundwork that has been laid by his predecessors, particularly Shelley.

“The Board welcomes Su’a and looks forward to working with him, especially in terms of implementing the next SCS strategic plan” announced Annandale.

Welcome Su’a!



New CEO of Samoa Cancer Society – Su’a John Ryan with outgoing CEO Shelley Burich

Ms. Burich, seen here with Pacific colleagues at COP8 in Geneva. During her tenure at SCS, Shelley was very active in tobacco control and strongly supported implementation of the FCTC in Samoa.



Framework Convention Alliance in the Pacific Islands

Working together to free the world from the devastating health, social, economic and environmental consequences of tobacco and tobacco use

The Framework Convention Alliance (FCA) represents the voice of civil society in support of the world's first global public health treaty – the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). The FCA is made up of nearly 500 organizations from more than 100 low, middle and high income countries.

For membership information: write to membership@fctc.org.

For more information contact the [Coordinator](#)

FCA has representatives in all WHO regions. The Western Pacific—Pacific Island Countries Regional Office (WPRO—Oceania) of FCA is located in Palau. The Coordinator is Annabel Lyman.

The Office's main activities are:

- Mobilise and support civil society capacity in support of the FCTC
- Collaborate with other technical assistance providers serving the Pacific Islands
- Provide technical assistance to members & Parties

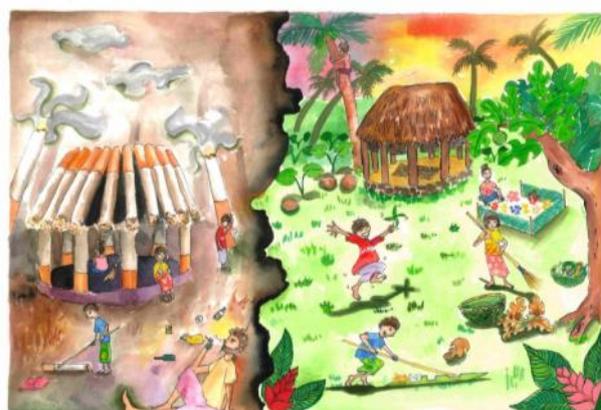
DATES TO REMEMBER

29 July, 2020: Webinar: Tobacco Industry Accountability and Liability as a COVID-19 Response. [Register here](#) to receive the link to connect to the webinar.

9-11 March, 2021: World Conference on Tobacco or Health (WCTOH). *“Navigating change; leading with impact.”*, Dublin, Ireland See wctoh.org

9-14 November, 2021: Ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP9), the Hague, Netherlands

16-18 November, 2021: Second session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP2), the Hague, Netherlands



Artwork from Samoa Cancer Society's WNTD poster competition

FCA Members in Pacific Island Countries

- Coalition for a Tobacco Free Palau (CTFP)
- Fiji Cancer Society
- Global Youth Leadership Nexus (GYLN) (Solomon Islands)
- Kunit Bobrae Coalition Inc. (Marshall Islands)
- Marshall Islands Epidemiology and Prevention Initiatives, Inc. (MIEPI)
- Kia-Henry Nema (Papua New Guinea)
- Nauru National Women's Council
- Samoa Cancer Society (SCS)
- Tuvalu Association of NGOs (TANGO)
- Ulkerreuil a Klengar—UAK (Palau)



All entries posted on Samoa Cancer Society's Facebook

