

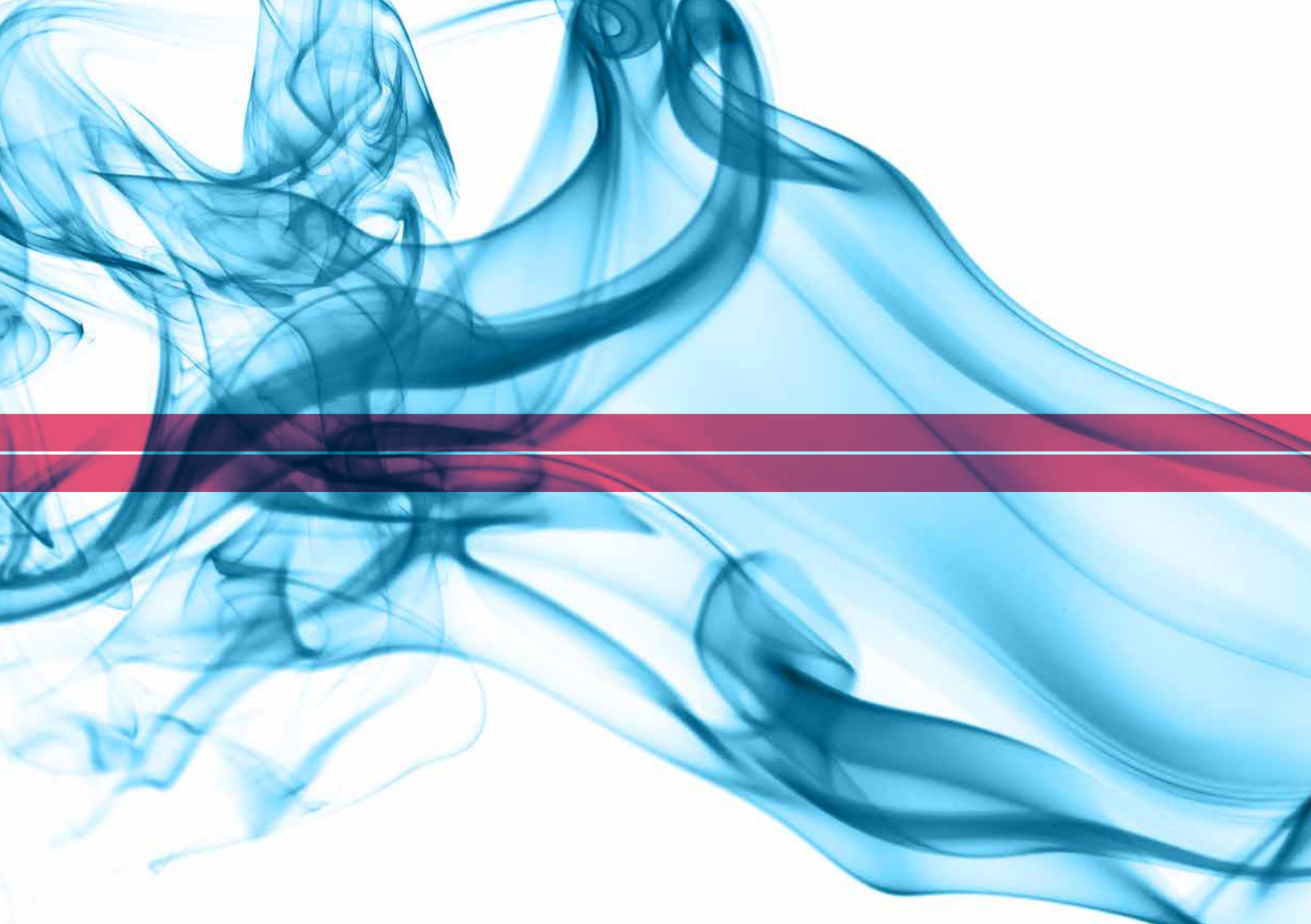


**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR
Africa

NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR TOBACCO CONTROL

A Model for the African Region



AFRO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR TOBACCO CONTROL

A Model for the African Region

- 1 Tobacco
- 2 Tobacco Products
- 3 Tobacco Use – prevention and control
- 4 Smoking – prevention and control

I. World Health Organization. Regional Office for Africa II. Title
ISBN 978-929023293-3 NLM Classification: WM 290)
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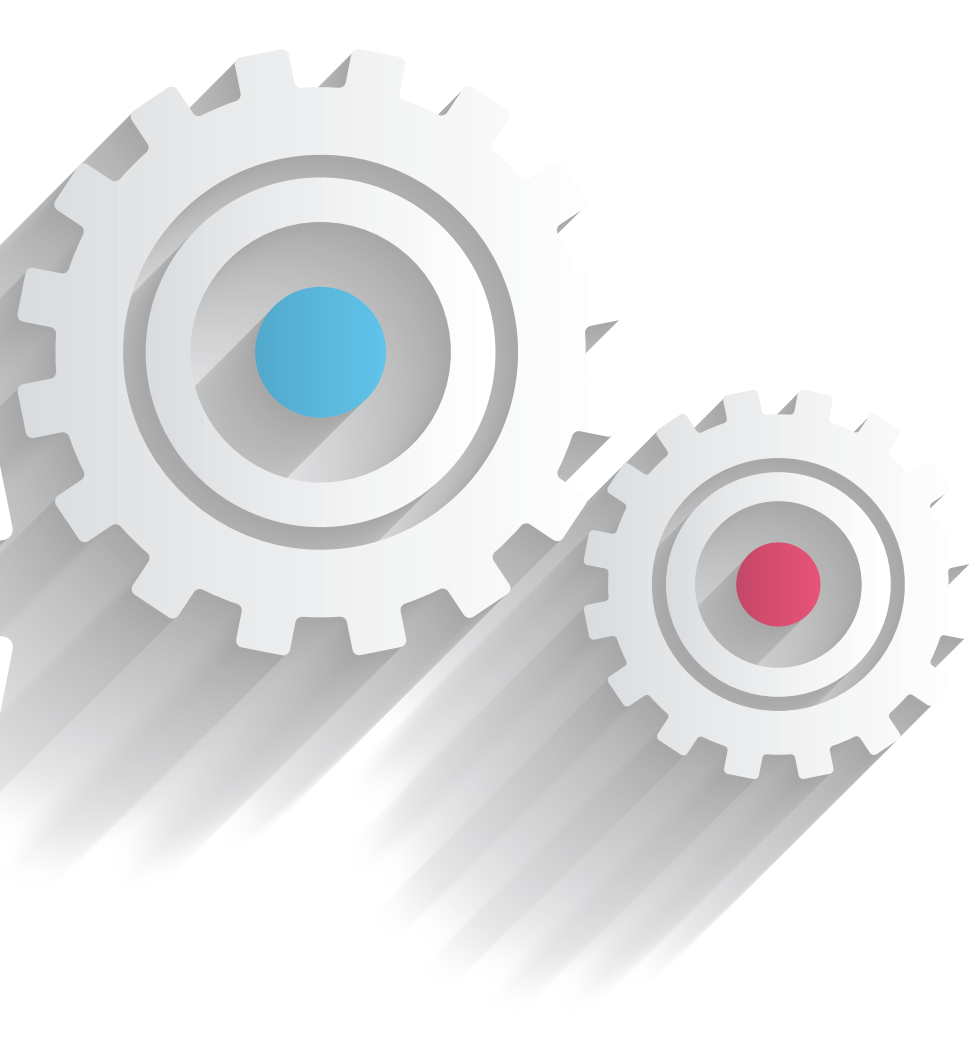
Printed in South Africa

INTRODUCTION

Government is, generally, the key implementer of tobacco-control policy. All efforts by other tobacco-control players are, therefore, geared towards supporting government to meet its obligations to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) through national legislation, regulations, policies, strategies, action plans and programmes. All 47 Member States in the WHO African Region already have national focal points (in the Ministry of Health) for tobacco control. There is, however, a common understanding on the need to have full involvement of all sectors and to strengthen leadership of the Ministry of Health to effectively coordinate all tobacco-control players at country level.



This document on national coordination for tobacco control provides guidance to enable Member States to establish and strengthen coordination of tobacco-control efforts in their respective countries



PURPOSE

This document on national coordination for tobacco control provides guidance to enable Member States to establish and strengthen coordination of tobacco-control efforts in their respective countries, in that tobacco control is not just a health issue but one that affects the whole government and indeed the whole society. In addition, tobacco-control activities have increased significantly in the African Region, and many more entities (government and nongovernmental) are now involved in these activities. In the absence of good coordination, efforts of all these actors are at times not in synergy, resulting in duplication and even competition, which bring about worst-case scenarios of tobacco-control resource utilization. There is therefore a need to strengthen capacity for coordination at national level and to ensure that a functional and effective coordination mechanism is in place at country level.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

NATIONAL COORDINATION OF TOBACCO-CONTROL ACTIVITIES IS MANDATORY FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHO FCTC. THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES SHOULD GUIDE THE PROCESS:

Obligations under Article 5.2 of the WHO FCTC requiring countries to establish or reinforce and finance a national coordinating mechanism or focal points for tobacco control

High-level political commitment to tobacco control by Member States

Whole-of-government approach to tobacco control

Protecting tobacco control policies from interference by the tobacco industry, in line with Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC and its guidelines.

KEY ELEMENTS

FOUR (4) ELEMENTS FORM AN EFFICIENT COORDINATION MECHANISM:

1

Obligations

which are either international, represented by Article 5.2 of the WHO FCTC; or national, represented by laws and administrative measures

2

Coordination structure

including the chairperson, secretariat, members, resources and schedule

3

Terms of reference

which clearly define the roles and timeframe for coordination

4

Timelines

to establish or strengthen a functional coordination mechanism

TERMS OF REFERENCE of the national coordination mechanism can include the following:

- To coordinate implementation of the WHO FCTC so as to streamline tobacco-control activities in all sectors;
- To establish relevant Technical Working Groups (TWGs) as part of the coordination mechanism to guide on specific interventions relating to different articles of the WHO FCTC;
- To advise government on relevant policy for implementation of the WHO FCTC;
- To provide guidance to tobacco-control stakeholders on effective implementation of the WHO FCTC.

KEY PLAYERS AND PRINCIPAL ROLES

Presidency/Prime minister's office

- Ensure and sustain high-level political commitment for tobacco control and implementation of the WHO FCTC.

National Assembly (and Senate)

- Provide political commitment and support the adoption of effective tobacco-control policies and legislation.

Ministry of Health

- Ensure multisectoral coordination of tobacco-control activities.
- Facilitate development of appropriate tobacco-control measures in line with the WHO FCTC and its guidelines.
- Coordinate monitoring and evaluation of implementation of tobacco-control measures.
- Be the Secretariat for the national coordination mechanism and any TWGs so established.

Ministry of Justice or Attorney General's Office (Chambers)

- Provide advice on development of tobacco-control legislation and regulations.
- Provide support for enforcement of and/or compliance with tobacco-control laws and regulations.
- Protect obligations to the WHO FCTC in bilateral and multilateral agreements.

Ministry of Finance

- Allocate funding for tobacco control including earmarked funds.
- Use tobacco taxation policies to increase the price of tobacco products.
- Chair any TWG on tobacco taxation.

National Revenue Authority and Customs

- Support development of tobacco taxation policies to increase the price of tobacco products.
- Combat illicit trade in tobacco and tobacco products including implementation of Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products.
- Chair any TWG on Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products.

Ministry of Environment

- Promote and support effective implementation of a smoke-free environment.
- Promote and support effective implementation of policies that protect the environment from effects of growing, manufacture and consumption of tobacco.

Ministry of Tourism

- Ensure monitoring and enforcement of smoke-free places in tourist facilities, including hotels.

Ministry of Communication and Information

- Provide support for communication and advocacy for tobacco control, particularly through public media.
- Promote and raise awareness on effects of tobacco and benefits of tobacco control.

Ministry of Labour

- Promote and support effective implementation of smoke-free workplaces and provision of cessation services to workers.
- Protect young people from being used as child labour in tobacco farms, factories and as sale agents.

KEY PLAYERS AND PRINCIPAL ROLES (continued)

Ministry of Trade

- Monitor and provide information on tobacco trade and related activities.
- Protect obligations to the WHO FCTC in bilateral and multilateral trade and investment agreements.

Ministry of Education

- Promote and support activities and initiatives to protect young people in school from tobacco use and exposure, including through the curriculum.
- Ensure effective implementation of legislation and other measures to protect the youth from tobacco use and exposure.

Ministry of Agriculture

- Monitor and provide information on tobacco cultivation
- Promote and support economically viable alternatives to tobacco growing.
- Chair any TWG on alternative livelihoods to tobacco farmers.

Ministry of the Interior and Internal Security; Ministry of Local Governments

- Ensure enforcement of tobacco-control legislation and regulations.
- Monitor compliance with tobacco-control legislation and regulations.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- Monitor and provide information on bilateral and multilateral agreements affecting tobacco control.
- Facilitate ratification of the WHO FCTC and its Protocols.
- Provide support for compliance with requirements of the WHO FCTC and its Protocol, as well as regular reporting.

Other relevant Ministries

- Promote and support activities and initiatives on tobacco control relating to their sectors.

WHO

- Provide technical support and guidance on full implementation of the WHO FCTC.
- Provide technical expertise to build country-level capacity on tobacco control.

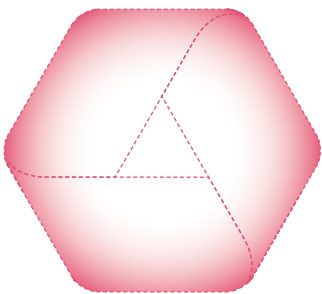
Civil Society Organizations

- Raise awareness of the public for effective tobacco control.
- Advocate with policy makers for effective tobacco control.
- Monitor activities of the tobacco industry and share related information with policy-makers as well as the public.

Academic institutions/ Universities

- Support research to generate evidence for tobacco-control policy-making

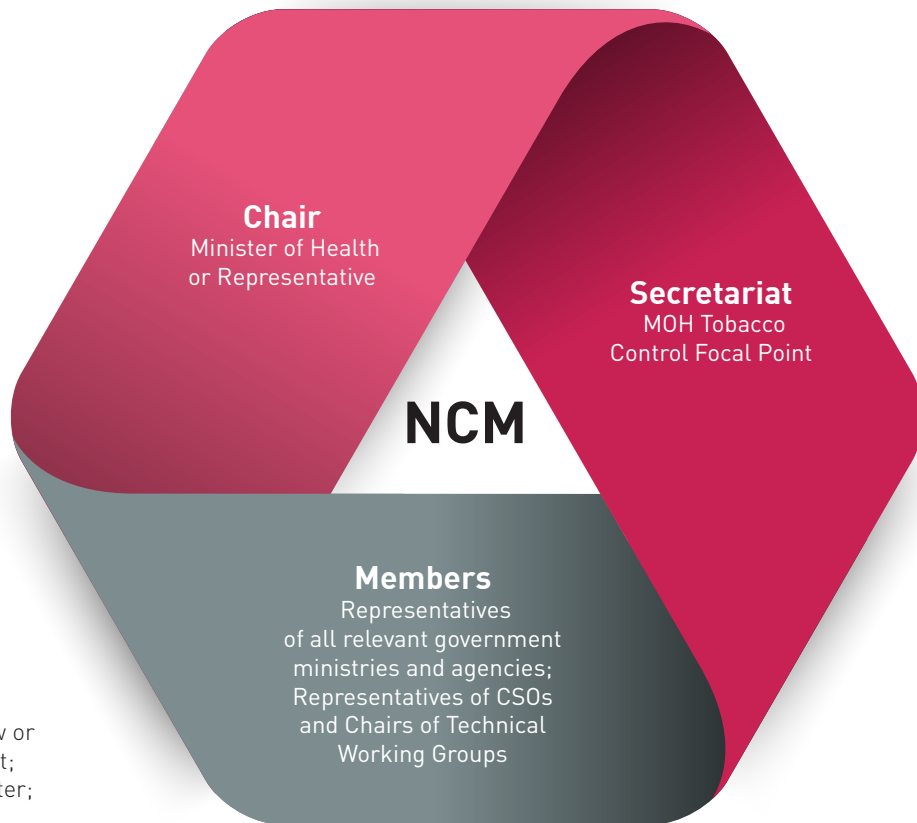
MODEL OF NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM



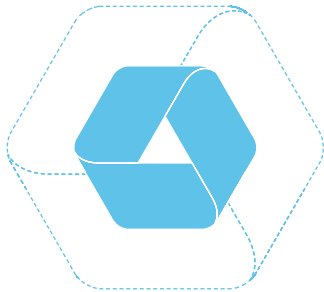
Establishment of the structure

The NCM should be formally established by law or by an administrative decree e.g from the cabinet; from the office of the President or Prime Minister; or from the minister for health.

NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM (NCM) STRUCTURE

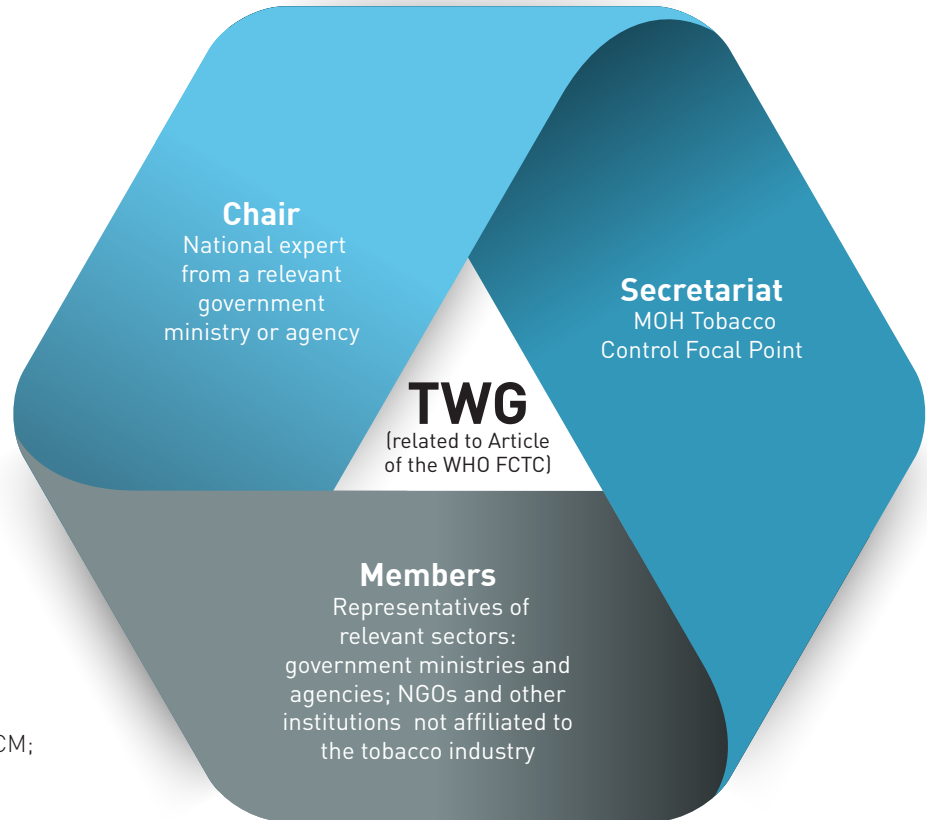


THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) STRUCTURE



Size of TWGs

- The size of the TWG will be decided by the NCM;
- It is expected to be small for effective work.



MODEL OF
TIMELINE
TO ESTABLISH
NATIONAL
COORDINATION
MECHANISM
(NCM)

MONTH	MONTH	MONTH	MONTH
01	02	03	04 + 05
<p>Activities Debrief to Minister of Health and WHO Representative on establishment or revitalization of the NCM structure.</p> <p>Responsible MOH/WHO</p>	<p>Activities Mapping of relevant stakeholders in tobacco control not affiliated to the tobacco industry (government ministries and agencies, CSOs and other relevant institutions)</p> <p>Identification of areas of focus for Technical Working Groups</p> <p>Responsible MOH/WHO</p>	<p>Activities Elaboration of official document establishing the NCM and official invitation to nominate representative.</p> <p>Responsible MOH</p>	<p>Activities Nomination of representatives from each institution</p> <p>Responsible Institutions</p>

MONTH

06

Activities

First meeting of the NCM

Responsible

MOH/WHO

Activities

Elaboration of a programme of work

Responsible

All

MONTH

07

Activities

Meeting of Technical working groups as needed

Responsible

TWG

MONTH

09

Activities

Meeting of Technical working groups as needed

Responsible

TWG

MONTH

11

Activities

Meeting of Technical working groups as needed

Responsible

TWG

KEY DELIVERABLES AND OUTPUTS

Key deliverables

Effective national coordination is essential to ensure that tobacco-control interventions reach the target population. It is also necessary to establish a system for monitoring the implementation process and outcomes. This may include periodic assessment of the national tobacco-control programme's impact on health and social indicators as necessary. When defining the national tobacco-control action plan, monitoring and countering tobacco industry activities should be a key component.

The coordination mechanism plays a key role in developing and implementing the national multisectoral strategic plan. It is therefore mandatory that the coordination mechanism is fully involved and engaged in drafting, validating and implementing such plan.

Outputs

An annual evaluation and planning meeting should be convened under the leadership of the MOH to assess progress of implementation of the national action plan for tobacco control, and to map out priorities and activities for the ensuing year. Objectives and strategies can be adjusted, based on the assessment, in order to achieve consistent and sustainable progress.

Constructive and continuing consultation and communication among tobacco-control stakeholders is crucial to secure commitments by institutions and organizations involved in implementing the national plan of action. The role of the media (TV, radio, print, social media) on promoting and raising awareness for tobacco control should be a regular part of the agenda of the coordination mechanism.





MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF COORDINATION MECHANISM

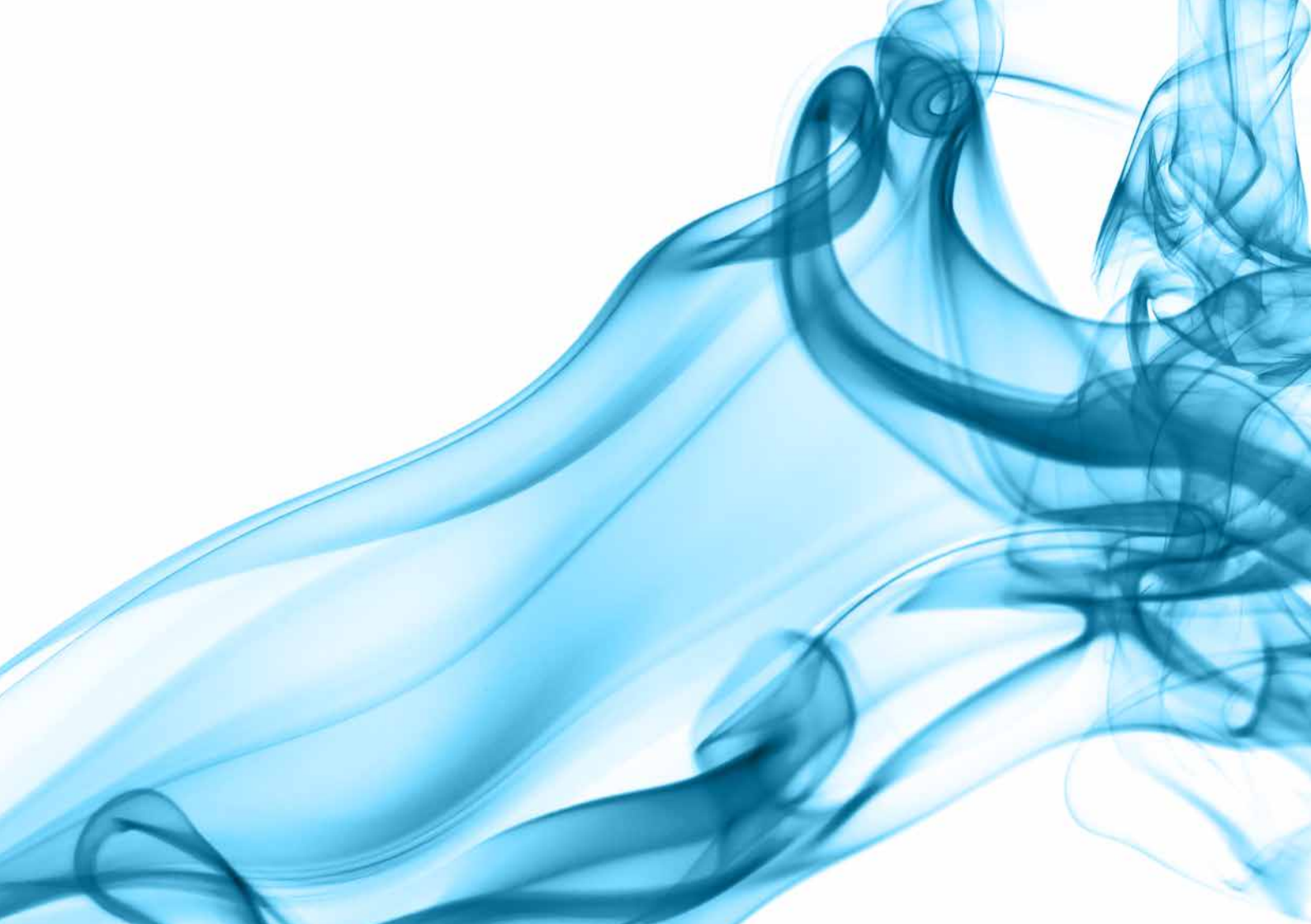
It is mandatory to ensure that the coordination mechanism is fully established and functioning. The NCM should be continually monitored to ensure that their efforts are meeting the set objectives. In the process of establishing and monitoring coordination, countries should ensure that members of the NCM, including experts in the TWGs, are not affiliated to the tobacco industry.

A framework for monitoring should be defined at the first meeting of the NCM for constant monitoring. This tool can be used as a self-assessment measure in order to gauge how various partners evaluate implementation of the WHO FCTC.

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Programme, WHO Regional Office for Africa

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