

**ALGIERS CALL FOR ACTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHO
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL IN THE WORLD
HEALTH ORGANIZATION AFRICAN REGION (2016)**

WE, the Heads of Delegation of Member States from the World Health Organization (WHO) African Region having convened in Algiers, Algeria from 12-13 October 2016 at the Second High Level Meeting on the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) in the WHO African Region;

AWARE that tobacco use continues to undermine sustainable development by imposing high health, economic, environmental and social burdens on countries of our Region;

COGNIZANT of the significant progress made to date in the implementation of the WHO FCTC;

NOTING the increasing number of Parties ratifying and acceding to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products from the WHO African Region;

ALSO NOTING that the domestic implementation of the WHO FCTC continues to present countries from the Region with major challenges including increasing tobacco industry interference, inadequate financial and technical resources, limited multisectoral action and progress in the implementation of the WHO FCTC.

RECALLING the Addis-Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (2015) that recognizes tobacco tax measures to be important effective means to reduce tobacco consumption and health care costs, and represents a revenue stream for financing for development;

ALSO RECALLING the Nairobi Declaration on the implementation of the WHO FCTC in the African Region (2015) and the Kinshasa Call to Action to accelerate the implementation of the WHO FCTC for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (2015);

HEREBY CALL TO ACTION:

Member States of the WHO African Region,

1. To speed up the development, adoption, strengthening and enforcement of comprehensive legislative and regulatory instruments for tobacco control that fully incorporate the obligations to the WHO FCTC and its Protocol, and integrate global best practices in tobacco control at the country level;
2. To reinforce the institutionalization of multi-sectoral action to effectively implement the WHO FCTC through a “whole of government” approach;
3. To implement effective and efficient tobacco taxation and pricing policies, including uniform specific taxes and a tobacco levy, to promote tobacco control and to assist Member States in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals;

4. To develop and implement coherent domestic strategies to promote tobacco control and public health in the context of international trade and investment;
5. To accelerate accession to, or ratification of, the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products and initiate multisectoral and effective domestic legal and institutional measures towards its implementation;
6. To maximize regional and global cooperation and collaboration with other WHO Member States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations and other non-State actors, excluding the tobacco industry and its affiliates, to support the effective implementation of the WHO FCTC;
7. To adopt and implement article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC and its guidelines and take measures to monitor and counter tobacco industry interference in domestic tobacco control and public health policies;
8. To ban or effectively regulate emerging and new products including water-pipes and electronic devices;
9. To institutionalize evaluation and surveillance of tobacco control policies so as to monitor and facilitate implementation of the WHO FCTC.

CALL UPON

10. The World Health Organization and the Secretariat to the WHO FCTC to continue to mobilize and provide effective financial and technical support to countries in the African Region to fully implement the WHO FCTC and the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products;
11. The United Nations and its specialized agencies, Partners, regional integration organizations, other intergovernmental bodies, and relevant non-State actors, excluding the tobacco industry and its affiliates, to mobilize and increase financial, technical and other resources including through South-South collaboration, to fully implement the WHO FCTC in the WHO African Region;
12. The African Union and Regional and sub-Regional Economic Integration Organizations in Africa to provide more support to the implementation of the WHO FCTC and the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, harmonize their tobacco taxation policies, and include tobacco control in their strategies and workplans;
13. The World Health Organization to explore, in collaboration with relevant intergovernmental bodies, the setting up of an African Tobacco Control Fund derived from the expanded taxation and special levies on tobacco products, so as to support implementation of the WHO FCTC and attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals in the African Region.

Done in Algiers, Algeria, on this 13th day of October 2016.