



CS/NV/26/09

Intersessional groups established by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products

The Convention Secretariat, which serves as the Secretariat of both the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) and of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, presents its compliments to the Parties to the Protocol and to the States that are not Parties to the Protocol, and has the honour to refer to the two following decisions adopted by the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Protocol at its Fourth session, held from 24 to 26 November 2026 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Decision FCTC/MOP4(6) Evidence-based research (Article 6.5 of the Protocol)¹

The MOP decided:

- a. to establish a Working Group on Article 6.5 of the Protocol;
- b. to mandate the Working Group to present conclusions, including, where appropriate, to propose recommendations on appropriate actions for the MOP to consider in relation to Article 6.5 of the Protocol and to promote the exchange of experiences in relation to control measures, best practices, related case studies, technology and capacity-building – including, but not limited to, those outlined in document FCTC/MOP/4/5;
- c. to adopt the draft terms of reference for the Working Group on Article 6.5 of the Protocol, as set out in the annex to the decision; and
- d. to request the Working Group to report on the outcome of its work at the Fifth session of the MOP.

The Convention Secretariat invites Parties to the Protocol and States that are not Parties to the Protocol to refer to the terms of reference for the Working Group on Article 6.5 of the Protocol, contained in the annex of the decision, in respect of the background, objectives, composition and selection of members of the Working Group, and assistance from the Convention Secretariat.

Decision FCTC/MOP4(7) Assistance and cooperation: strengthening implementation of Article 24 of the Protocol²

The MOP decided:

- a. to establish a Working Group on Article 24 of the Protocol, taking into account the work completed by the Working Group on Assistance and Cooperation, established in decision FCTC/MOP1(10), whose mandate was completed per decision FCTC/MOP2(7);
- b. to mandate the Working Group to identify good practice for the implementation of Article 24 of the Protocol, as well as barriers thereto, and to prepare a report on effective mechanisms for strengthening assistance and cooperation on investigation and prosecution of offences; and

¹ FCTC/MOP4(6) Evidence-based research (Article 6.5 of the Protocol)

² FCTC/MOP4(7) Assistance and cooperation: strengthening implementation of Article 24 of the Protocol

- c. to adopt the draft terms of reference for the Working Group on Article 24 of the Protocol, as set out in the Annex to the decision.

The Convention Secretariat invites Parties to the Protocol and States that are not Parties to the Protocol to refer to the terms of reference for the Working Group on Article 24 of the Protocol, contained in the Annex of the decision, in respect of the background, objectives, composition and selection of members of the Working Group and assistance from the Convention Secretariat.

Arrangements to establish the working groups

According to the terms of reference adopted in decisions FCTC/MOP4(6) and FCTC/MOP4(7), all Parties to the Protocol wishing to participate may join the working groups and take part in their deliberations at their own expense.

Further, each region shall nominate, for each working group, up to two members representing the Parties in their respective regions through their regional coordinators. These regional nominees may benefit from assistance in accordance with the travel policy established in the workplan and budget adopted by the MOP, subject to the availability of funding.

The working groups shall welcome Parties to the WHO FCTC that are not Parties to the Protocol to participate as observers. No travel support will be provided to these Parties to the WHO FCTC, in line with previous practice.

Additionally, for each working group, the Convention Secretariat, in consultation with the members of the respective working group, may invite as observers up to three representatives of nongovernmental organizations that are observers to the MOP, and up to three representatives of intergovernmental organizations, based on relevant expertise and sound knowledge of matters considered by authorities working to combat illicit trade in tobacco, tobacco products or manufacturing equipment. No travel support will be made available to these observers, in line with previous practice.

Parties to the Protocol and States that are not Parties to the Protocol are invited to express their interest in participating in the working groups by submitting their nominations to the Convention Secretariat (fctcgovernance@who.int) by 20 March 2026. Parties willing to act as key facilitators are invited to indicate such interest in their nominations.

The Secretariat of the WHO FCTC avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Parties to the Protocol and States that are not Parties to the Protocol the assurance of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 6 March 2026