



FCTC

WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

FCTC/COP/8/VR

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL**

Eighth session

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 1–6 OCTOBER 2018

**VERBATIM RECORDS
OF PLENARY MEETINGS**

**GENEVA
2019**



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PREFACE

The Eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 01 to 06 October 2018. The report of proceedings (containing the decisions) was adopted by the COP at the end of the session, and is available at <http://www.who.int/fctc/publications>. In addition, the verbatim records of plenary meetings are issued in the current volume (FCTC/COP/8/VR).

The documentation, including the list of participants, is also available at <https://www.who.int/fctc/cop/sessions/cop8/documentation/en/>.

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VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS

FIRST PLENARY MEETING

Monday, 1 October 2018, at 10:00

President: Ms Preeti Sudan (India)

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION (item 1)

THE PRESIDENT:

Good morning to all of you. Dr Tedros, the Director-General of WHO; Mr Michael Møller, Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva; Excellencies; Distinguished Delegates; Floor Members of Countries; Officials of WHO and other organizations; observers to the COP; able Head of the Secretariat Dr Vera Luiza and her team; ladies and gentlemen: I extend a very warm welcome to each one of you here who have travelled from across the globe to attend the COP8 [Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties]. I'd like to thank the Conference of Parties [COP], especially the COP Bureau Members for reposing their faith in me as the COP Conference President. Guided by the experienced Bureau Members, some of whom have immense institutional memories, as old as the FCTC itself. During the intersessional period we had three Bureau meetings, and several discussions over email and otherwise. With the help of the FCTC Secretariat, we are now in the opening session of the COP8, and, I hope through the various agendas listed for the next six days. We have a heavy agenda, more than 22 items, we shall be able to discuss many important issues pertaining to global tobacco control. As you may recall, the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control [WHO FCTC] was developed in response to the global tobacco epidemic and is one of the strongest tools to reverse the tide of this epidemic to prevent disease and premature mortality.

It is one of the most rapidly embraced treaties in the history of the United Nations, and currently there are 181 parties to it, covering 90% of the global population. This COP meeting is very historic, ladies and gentlemen, it is going to be followed by the first MOP [Meeting of the Parties] meeting, and this heralds a new era in the implementation of Article 15 of the FCTC. [applause]...This reiterates the fact that there is no issue or agenda above healthy life, and prevention of disease and premature death. Global leaders have confirmed that tobacco control lies at the heart of prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases [NCDs] at the recently concluded High-level Meeting of UN General Assembly in New York, and the FCTC and its COP are one of the keys to the tobacco-free healthy world as are high political support of the delegations of Parties for successful and fruitful COP and delegations here in Geneva. Thank you.

May I now request to have the UN Secretary-General's statement read out? So I have been asked to read it out. It's an honour for me to read a written statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr Antonio Guterres. I am pleased to greet the Conference of the Parties to the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. With seven

million dying annually due to tobacco, this treaty is central to improving global health. It is also essential for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal [SDG] 3, which calls on us to ensure healthy lives, and promote well-being for all. Significant achievements have been made in implementing the Convention. The new Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products has also advanced tobacco control globally. But tobacco use harms much more than our health. It contributes to climate change and deforestation, and to human right abuses across the supply chain. The Convention Framework provides tools to tackle these problems, contributing to sustainable development more broadly. Our work requires a holistic approach that goes beyond health and embraces all areas in which tobacco has an impact. Let us recommit to unite forces, and to strengthen cooperation to implement the Convention and the Sustainable Development Goals. I wish you fruitful deliberations leading to more advances in the fight against the tobacco epidemic.

Now it's my great pleasure to give the floor to Dr Tedros, Director-General of the World Health Organization [WHO], to address the audience. Dr Tedros, you have the floor.

2. OPENING REMARKS BY DR TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Good morning, Madam President Preeti Sudan; Dr Vera Luiza Da Costa e Silva; and my friend David Chikvaizde, to represent the UN Director-General in Geneva; colleagues; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen: It's an honour to be here for my first COP, and to see the commitment of so many of you to making the world tobacco free. There is no other way to say it. The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control is one of greatest public health achievements of the past 20 years. More than 13 years since it came into force, it remains one of the world's most powerful tools for health. Together, we have made great progress. We have saved lives. The implementation of the FCTC is improving. More than 60% of the world's population is now covered by one or more of the six MPOWER strategies – four times more than in 2007. In recent years, several countries including Kenya and Uganda have passed comprehensive tobacco control laws. Gabon and Gambia have increased tobacco taxes. India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand have introduced large graphic health warnings.

Many countries have banned smoking in public places. From Afghanistan to Cambodia and El Salvador, and several cities in China have implemented smoke-free laws. Plain packaging has now been implemented in seven countries, there are seven others with laws awaiting implementation, and countless others in the policy process. A World Trade Organization [WTO] panel report upheld Australia's plain packaging law as consistent with WTO rules. The Sustainable Development Goals were adopted, with an explicit commitment to strengthening the implementation of the FCTC, and, most recently, we secured enough ratifications for the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products to come into force. I have to tell you honestly, we were worried we wouldn't get there some months ago, but we increased the intensity of our efforts, advocating for Member States to ratify [at] the WHO's Regional Committee meetings, and writing letters to health ministers and parliamentary speakers, and heads of states, and we made it.

This is another historic moment in the fight against tobacco. Thank you to each and every Party that joined, but we still want more. We want as many countries as possible to ratify the Protocol. I am delighted that, immediately after COP, the first Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products will be held at WHO headquarters here in Geneva.

At the United Nations General Assembly last week, there were several key moments for advancing our fight against tobacco. First, the launch of the Tobacco-free Finance Initiative, calling on all countries to divest tobacco investments from their sovereign wealth funds. Second, the High-level Meeting on Noncommunicable Diseases, where world leaders committed to 13 concrete steps to get the world back on track for the SDG target of reducing premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases. And third, the High-level Meeting on Tuberculosis [TB], which highlighted that reducing tobacco use is a critical component in ending TB. As a side note, I also cancelled one of my other speaking engagements after the tobacco industry announced that it was sponsoring the event.

Ladies and gentlemen, despite all these successes, much remains to be done, especially in low- and middle-income countries. Progress is too slow. We must continue advocating for urgent and accelerated implementation of the Convention. We must continue to be on our guard against the tobacco industry, and its tactics. Let me leave you with three specific calls to action. First, we call on all countries to do more to increase tobacco taxes and to take full advantage of the multiple benefits for saving lives and generating revenue for public health. Second, we call on all countries to implement comprehensive bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship. And third, we call on all countries to commit to universal health coverage [UHC] based on resilient health systems and primary health care that promotes health, prevents disease, and delivers treatment and care centred on the needs of people. So, in summary, my free message today – increase taxes, ban advertising, commit to universal health coverage. Thank you for your support and resolve that makes WHO proud to host the Convention Secretariat. Let me assure you that I remain personally committed to continuing the work done by my predecessors at WHO, to use the full force of the Convention to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable. Thank you.

[Applause]

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Dr Tedros for your inspiring words, and for your personal leadership and commitment to promote a healthy world. And also for your support to the ratification of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade of Tobacco Products. Your leadership inspires us, Sir, and thank you for hosting us. Now I would like to invite Mr David Chikvaizze, Chef de Cabinet of the United Nations Office at Geneva, to address the conference.

3. OPENING REMARKS DELIVERED, ON BEHALF OF MR MICHAEL MØELLER, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA, MR CHIKVAIDZE

Madam President; Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus; Dr Da Costa e Silva; Excellencies; Ladies and Gentlemen. It is a pleasure and privilege to meet and represent the United Nations Office of Geneva. Mr Michael Møller was retained at the very last moment this morning and regrets he could not be with you. He asked me to convey his thanks to Dr Da Costa e Silva and the Secretariat of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control for inviting him to join you at the opening of the Eighth session of the Conference of the Parties. It would have given him a welcome opportunity to encourage you on your crucial work. He asked me to deliver the following remarks on his behalf:

Tobacco products are widespread. We all know someone who smokes. Smoking is clearly a major health problem, killing millions of people every day. Worst of all, tobacco products are

also harmful to people who do not smoke. Every year, the global cost of smoking is around one trillion US dollars. Most of it is attributed to the health care costs, or to the loss of productivity due to the tobacco-related illnesses. Eighty per cent of the 1.1 billion smokers worldwide live in low- and middle-income countries. This makes smoking a development problem because it hits the most vulnerable and strained, already overstretched health systems, leading to a vicious circle of poverty and inequality. And while much progress has been made in recent years on policies combating the threat of smoking and tobacco usage, we must not remain complacent, we just cannot. Reaching the 2030 Agenda [for Sustainable Development] and lessening the burden of noncommunicable diseases, as well as ensuring the promotion of well-being for all, of all ages, require early, widespread action at every level. Youth in particular is a key demographic group we must address in this fight, be it through effective smoking prevention policies, or relevant legislation. Experience shows that partnerships with civil society, sports federations, the private sector, media and others are crucial for successful information campaigns about the risks of smoking. Without such campaigns, prevention and legislation policies to forbid or reduce smoking will always ultimately fail. The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control is a perfect example of the kind of collaboration that we promote in our daily work to foster new partnerships, share lessons learnt, and find solutions to very real and current challenges. This is very much in the spirit of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We still have a long way to go to achieve a smoke-free world; however, I am encouraged by the work you do here. Successful tobacco control is a joint effort, and much like your efforts made in this Framework Convention, one of the most rapidly and widely embraced treaties in UN history. The world is counting on you to take it one step further and implement the life-saving policies. This was the message of the Director-General of UNOG. I can only add my personal wishes for the excellent and productive meeting. Thank you very much.

[Applause]

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Mr Chikvaidze, and also thank you for your support. Now I give the floor to Dr Vera da Costa e Silva, the Head of the Convention Secretariat. You have the floor, Vera.

4. OPENING REMARKS BY DR DA COSTA E SILVA, HEAD OF THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT

Good morning to all. Distinguished Guests, Ms Preeti, Dr Tedros, Mr Chikvaidze, dear Delegates, Colleagues and Friends: As the head of the Convention Secretariat it is an enormous privilege to welcome you to the Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. We have a full agenda this week that will keep us very busy. Our discussions and decisions will determine the future for the implementation of the Convention, especially for our efforts to strengthen it. From the outset, I wish to express our deep appreciation to the President of this Conference of the Parties, Ms Preeta Sudan from India, who is the first woman to serve in this role. Her leadership and reason has proven invaluable in steering us through a demanding intersessional period, and in preparing for this conference. Thank you Ms Sudan.

[Applause].

Please also allow me to express our appreciation to Dr Tedros [and] to the World Health Organization at all levels for the timeless support we all received in implementing the WHO treaty. Most importantly, I want to welcome the representatives of Parties to the treaty. Many of you have travelled a long way, and we are grateful to see you represent the different sectors of your government and share this great work that is being undertaken by all to implement the convention. I wish also to welcome representatives from state-run Parties and invite you once more to join the treaty as soon as possible. And I am also thanking the representatives from international organizations observers to the COP, who will continue to support the work of this Conference. Our engagement at the international level beyond health has been of great benefit and has shown the power of multisectoral work to accelerate implementation of the Convention. I wish furthermore to extend our special thanks to Mr Chikvaдзе for joining us today in representing Mr Møller and the United Nations family.

Finally, let me recognize the critical contribution that is being made by the Convention to the civil society, and to warmly welcome all observers from nongovernmental organizations to the Conference. This week, we are gathered to discuss problems and the next steps in reaching the original objectives of the treaty: protect present and future generations from the devastating health, economic, social and environment impact of tobacco. As a benefit from the inclusion of the WHO treaty implementation, as a party to the Sustainable Development Goals, our general debate later today will be centred on the conclusion of the Convention in national plans to achieve the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. We will then move on to our high-level segments to examine tobacco and its impact on the environment, including climate change. This segment is intended to bring new perspectives on implementation of Article 18 of the Convention, and I thank in advance the speakers for their participation.

I wish to take this moment to thank our two keynote speakers, the Honourable Attorney General of Brazil, Minister Grace Maria Fernandes Mendonça, who is uniquely experienced to represent the complexity of challenges we face in implementing the convention, and the Director General of Health and Food Safety of the European Commission, Ms Ann Buscher, who has joined us today, and has given us the great honour of her presence, which demonstrates the continued commitment of the European Union to the WHO treaty. Thank you to both of you. I would close these welcoming remarks by reminding the Conference that this is a time for celebration. The ending [of] illicit trading of tobacco products is the landmark of our fight against the tobacco epidemic. The Protocol, which builds on Article 15 of the Convention [and] will provide governments with a unique and powerful approach to eliminate illicit tobacco. For those countries that are party to the Protocol, please let me extend my thanks for your commitment to this fight, and please let me strongly encourage all parties to this treaty who have not already done so, to seriously consider joining the Protocol. Let me end by greeting Dr Haik Nikogosian, the former head of the Convention Secretariat, who is gracing us with his presence today at COP8.

[Applause]

I welcome all of you today to Geneva for the Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties. The Convention Secretariat wishes you a successful week and is ready to assist you in any way we can. Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT:

So, thank you Dr Vera. Before we close the opening ceremony of COP8, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank my fellow colleagues of the Bureau, the Bureau members who are seated on the stage, and I must acknowledge the immense contribution that they have made to the Bureau and enabled us to come to this day. And on my behalf also, I would like to thank the First Secretary of the Convention, Mr Haik Nikogosian, who has kindly agreed to be here with us, at this location. And distinguished delegates, the opening ceremony now comes to a close, let me thank our honoured guests on the stage, Dr Tedros and Mr Chikvaidze, who have spared their time, and honoured us with their presence. We take leave of them, thank you ever so much.

[Applause]

**5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK
(ITEM 1.1)**

THE PRESIDENT:

So distinguished delegates, let's get down to business now. Agenda item number 1.1, Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work. I think Myanmar wants to say something.

MYANMAR:

Thank you, Madam Chair. According to the Rule of the Procedure 32 of the Conference of the Parties, and in keeping with the precedent of the previous COP on behalf of the SEA [South-East Asia] Region, I would like to propose the COP to be open.

THE PRESIDENT:

So, you would like to propose for the COP to be open? Anybody else? Australia, please.

AUSTRALIA:

Thank you, Madam President. On behalf of the Western Pacific Region, I see now to raise the issue on the organization of working Committee A, so I would like to propose that item 7.1 on the matter of the proposed meeting on the strategic framework be taken as the first matter of business in Committee A. We believe that this will enable a more orderly and timely consideration of business in both committees. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Canada you have the floor.

CANADA:

Thank you. With respect to the conduct of the meeting, Canada favours the meeting being held in public. However, we recognize the concerns that many parties have expressed about potential tobacco industry interference and the importance of MOP [Meeting of the Parties] point 3 and understand therefore why people might prefer to hold the meeting in an open meeting. As a means of mitigating any loss in transparency, and any challenges that might then offer to the

COP, in terms of legitimacy or apparent legitimacy, we would like to propose, that it be held open, but that the plenary sessions be webcast. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

EU, you have the floor.

EU:

Yes, thank you very much. As regards to the conduct of this meeting, we are in favour of public participation at the plenary, except for the voting, and if the COP decides that they should be restricted in accordance with the rules of procedure. Public for us includes all non-state organizations, NCPs or individuals, such as from academia, or the private sector. Plenaries should be open for all members of the public to ensure transparency and openness of the work of the COP. In the spirit of compromise, we could go along with the Canadian proposal of having this meeting open and of having a webcast of it, in order to be public, to have a public component. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT :

Senegal, please you have the floor.

SENEGAL

Bonjour à tout le monde. Le Sénégal souhaite recommander d'inverser l'ordre de discussion établi dans l'ordre du jour en déplaçant le point 6 relatif aux instruments d'application du traité aux questions techniques après la discussion des points 7.1 relatifs à la stratégie mondiale et 8.2 relatifs à la transparence des délégations. Je vous remercie.

THE PRESIDENT:

Uruguay, the floor is yours.

URUGUAY:

Muchas gracias, señora presidenta y muy buenos días para todos. Uruguay hace uso de la palabra en su rol de coordinador de la región de las Américas para solicitar asimismo que el punto 7.1 de la Agenda sea tratado al comienzo de las labores del Comité A, esto es, antes de tratar el tema 6, y también para transmitir el acuerdo de la región de las Américas en apoyar la propuesta de Canadá de tener una sesión abierta con transmisión por webcast. Muchas gracias, señora presidenta.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thailand, you have the floor.

THAILAND:

Thank you, Mrs President. With regards to the conduct of the meeting, Thailand believes that, we do agree on the concept of transparency. However, as we have seen from the previous COP, we are now experiencing more tobacco industry interference at the COP level. We feel that we do have a draft proposal, to be presented at COP8 meetings, and maximizing transparency, while preventing tobacco industry interference. In light of that, we wish to endorse the Sierra decision of having at least this COP meeting open, until we have that draft decision on maximizing transparency. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Chad, you have the floor.

CHAD:

Merci Madame la Présidente. Le Tchad voudrait soutenir la proposition d'amendement de l'agenda faite par le Sénégal. Merci.

THE PRESIDENT:

OK, does Australia want to speak again?

AUSTRALIA:

Just on the matter of the status of the meeting, Madam President, we would like to speak in favour of the principle of transparency but in the spirit of compromise, we support the Canadian proposal to have it cast as a "webinar".

THE PRESIDENT:

Right. So, we need to take a decision on the Conference being public or open, and we also need to take a decision on whether it will be webcast, and if it will be webcast whether it will be a live streaming or it will be a delayed webcast. So, I request that the Parties may kindly give us directions – I think Thailand wants to speak again – Thailand?

THAILAND :

Thank you for giving me the floor again, and that's the clarity that I wish to seek in terms of webcast, will that be live-streamed, or will it be delayed, and Thailand would agree on a compromise as proposed by Canada.

THE PRESIDENT:

Kuwait, you have the floor.

KUWAIT:

أتكلم بالنيابة عن إقليم شرق المتوسط. هذا الصباح ناقشنا الاقتراح الكندي، وكان هناك اتفاق على ان يتم البث بالويب للجلسات العامة

وأود التأكيد على نقطتين:

الأول الجلسات العامة Plenary sessions هي التي يتم نقلها وليست الجلسات الفنية.

الجانب الآخر نريد أن نؤكد أن هذه خصوصية فقط لهذا المؤتمر، وإذا كان هناك لابد أن يطرح هذا الموضوع، يُطرح كل مؤتمر بمؤتمر بحد ذاته.

شكرًا سيدتي الرئيسية

أتكلم بالنيابة عن إقليم شرق المتوسط. هذا الصباح

THE PRESIDENT:

Benin, you have the floor.

BENIN :

Je vous remercie, Madame la Présidente. En tant que coordinateur de la région africaine, je voudrais porter à votre connaissance que nous avons convenu au niveau de notre région que la cérémonie d'ouverture et la cérémonie de clôture soient diffusées par webcast, et pour le reste des travaux, nous y reviendrons. Je vous remercie.

THE PRESIDENT:

Let me then reframe my question, we would like the parties to take a decision. I think we generally agree that the session be open. Now, on the webcast, the issue is that the technical sessions will not be webcast, it will only be the sessions that are open to public, that, I think is clear. And I just want clarity so that we all move on, Nicolas, if you can tell us that, can we have a delayed webcast?

THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson, good morning everybody, welcome to COP8. If my understanding is right we are dealing with Rule of Procedure 2, just for clarity, let me just quote: "Public sessions or meetings means sessions or meetings that are open to attendance by Parties, States and regional economic integration organizations that are not Parties. The Secretary of intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations accredited by the Conference of the Parties, pursuant to rule 30 and 31 respectively, and members of the public. Open sessions or meetings means sessions or meetings that are open to attendance by parties, states, or regional economic integration organizations that are not parties, the secretariats of inter-governmental organizations and non-government organizations that have observer status pursuant to rule 30 and 31 respectively." If my understanding is right, the proposal at this point is to pass the plenary sessions from public, as provided for in the rules of procedure, to open, as long as there is a webcast. It is my understanding that it is possible to have this webcast as a recording. It is also, to my understanding, possible, technically possible, to do this webcast live. The webcast can be delayed for three minutes.

THE PRESIDENT:

Good. Thailand.

THAILAND:

Thank you for the clarification, but I understand that there is an intervention, and I can't quite recall which Party proposed that the opening plenary and closing plenary be open to the public, not all plenaries. So, I understand that, in the previous COP meetings, we did have interim plenaries, but I heard that there was an intervention that only the opening and closing plenaries be open to the public, with webcasting. And Thailand wished to also reaffirm that we proposed that the webcasts be recorded and disseminated. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

New Zealand, you have the floor.

NEW ZEALAND:

Thank you, Madam Chair, I speak on behalf of the Western Pacific Region. At this morning's regional discussions, the Western Pacific Region agreed that webcasting should be made available at plenaries, with a delay of minutes as described previously. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Canada, please.

CANADA

Thank you very much, Madam Chair. So, with respect to whether there should be a delay, it's not clear to me that we have the technical ability for a delay of hours, certainly in our view, delaying to the end of this COP would not serve the transparency that we are seeking to serve. A couple of moments, a few minutes of delay is fine, and I believe that that is technically possible. With respect to which plenaries, our view would be, that plenary sessions should be webcast, if they are only open. It is hard for us to argue that we are serving the purpose of transparency if we are picking and choosing one way of being transparent. We think that transparency in the conduct of public business is important, and its important to a legitimacy of what we do, it's important to ensure that the actual global parties are visible and accountable, we think it's important. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Kenya, you have the floor.

KENYA:

Thank you, Madam President, and we would like to join the discussion. I believe that the purpose for transparency is for the public and the world to know what COP is deciding and the provisions that we have followed and transparency that we are now undertaking in the COP. However, the purpose of making, proposing that some meetings should be closed and others be public is because of a threat of influence by people who have influence, a conflict of interest, particularly the tobacco industry. But it can influence the discussions that are going on, so if we have a webcast that is live, three minutes can be similar to a live webcast, I don't think it makes any difference. They can, therefore, whoever has a conflict of interest, can influence the decision the discussions that are going on in COP. So I would like to join the proposal that we have opening and the closing made public, with live stream if you want, live streaming, but that the continued discussions during the COP sessions in between the opening and closing should not be made public, because then we are exposing ourselves to pressure, to influence from those people that have interests to influence the agenda that we have on the table. So I do not understand, if we say that it is not going to be transparent, I mean, if you want to satisfy the transparency reason, then the discussions can be recorded and be relayed later, after the COP they can be made available, somebody can go to the website of WHO and look at it for the discussions of the web on. But I think for the purpose of addressing the threat that we are trying to contain, I think we need to have the discussions closed during the COP, so that we don't have influence from, people with conflict of interest, in particular the tobacco industry. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

European Union, you have the floor.

EUROPEAN UNION:

Thank you very much. In this discussion, we think that Canada came with a very good suggestion of compromise and the explanation relates to principles of transparency and openness of public business, and these are also very close to how we operate in all of our policy areas. And that is why we strongly support the Canadian proposal. We think that all the plenaries should be open, not just the beginning and the end, but all the plenaries, except for when we vote. That is what I also said in our introductory statement, and openness means also that we don't have a long delay of a webcam, something like a few minutes, that is acceptable, but if we delayed for much longer, that would not correspond to principles of transparency and openness. Sorry, what? Yes. So we want to, sorry, I was corrected by my colleagues, I must have said open participation, so we want public participation at the plenaries, and also at interim plenaries, at least public participation and then, if we have webcams, just as a maximum, some minutes of delay. Thank you, and please excuse my mistake.

THE PRESIDENT:

So, Uruguay.

URUGUAY:

Muchas gracias, señora presidenta. Uruguay realiza su intervención en nombre de la región de las Américas. Simplemente quisiéramos aclarar que la propuesta que apoya nuestra región es la de tener webcasting en las sesiones plenarias y las mismas se transmitirían con tres minutos en diferido. Queríamos hacer esta aclaración, que tal vez es útil. Gracias.

THE PRESIDENT:

China, you have the floor.

CHINA:

谢谢主席先生。我们代表团对公开和透明度原则表示支持。但是，从国际会议的实践来看，没有任何一个会议把实时的录像直播和一个会议的合法性联系在一起。所以，我们代表团没有办法接受要求全程直播的理由。当然，在这个会议当中，我们也同意，包括开幕式、闭幕式，可以进行网上的播放，但是，需要有一定的留滞的时间，以确保不管是从避免技术的障碍，或者避免烟草业的干扰以及其他的紧急情况来说，都是有必要的。所以我们可以同意泰国代表的观点，我们可以既保持公开，同时也保护不受干预，这样的话，可以把相关部分录像在会议结束之后公开。谢谢主席先生。

THE PRESIDENT:

So, Democratic Republic of Congo.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO :

Bonjour à vous tous. Nous pensons que c'est une question fondamentale de laisser le public suivre les discussions via le webcast pour assurer la transparence. Cela dit, il y a des années, l'industrie du tabac a demandé d'assister comme observateur à nos réunions, cela lui a toujours été refusé. Dans beaucoup de pays comme la République démocratique du Congo, l'industrie du tabac fait beaucoup d'effort pour annihiler les tentatives d'obtenir une loi. Aujourd'hui, nous sommes ouverts, nous voulons être ouverts à tout le monde. C'est une chose excellente, je ne sais pas si c'est une infiltration de l'industrie ou c'est une évolution de la convention et de la COP car il y a des matières sensibles pour lesquelles nous avons toujours pensé qu'il ne fallait pas les donner à l'industrie. Aujourd'hui, alors, si on opte pour cette proposition, il est intéressant de dire que l'industrie peut participer à nos réunions parce nous n'avons plus rien à cacher. Dès que l'on commence à diffuser, cela n'est plus réservé à personne. C'est à tout le monde. J'appuie la région AFR qui a pensé qu'il faille que l'on publie, qu'on rende publiques n'est-ce pas l'ouverture et la clôture, parce que la convention n'est pas très bien connue par le public. Mais quant aux matières sensibles comme aux commissions techniques, nous pensons qu'il faut sélectionner ces matières pour laisser connaître cela à tout le monde, même l'industrie peut y accéder. Nous savons que l'industrie peut y accéder, mais nous pensons qu'il est nécessaire qu'on réserve l'ouverture et la fermeture pour sensibiliser tout le monde et les matières techniques qui vont être traitées soient réservées. Peut-être que l'on peut sélectionner

ce qu'il faut faire connaître au public par les médias, mais pas l'assemblée d'ouverture, l'ensemble, disons de nos discussions.

THE PRESIDENT:

So, South Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA:

South Africa would like to support the proposal by Kenya, allowing access only for the plenary session and the end of the session, and in between, during the discussions, that should not be an open session.

THE PRESIDENT:

Maldives, you have the floor.

MALDIVES:

Thank you, Madam Chair, and good morning everyone. I would like to reiterate that the proposal by Thailand was in fact a regional stand taken this morning, for reasons that have been highlighted, even by our colleagues from China, that, since we have already agreed on the Article 5.3 that we would not be involving the engagement of the tobacco industry in any form in our other work, but rather only to ensure that they follow what we decide. So during the process of deciding something, if we allow them to intervene in [inaudible] trade, after three minutes, then they could disrupt our discussions, and influence at some point before we conclude our work. So if we are able to progress a recording at the end of the session without any censor, the whole proceedings are there for the public to see, so I think if we webcast it, then this is just like a public, it is, it doesn't serve the purpose why Article 5.3 is here in the first place. So therefore, we would support that the opening plenary, and the closing plenary can be webcasted live, but that all other plenary sessions must be closed. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Uganda, and then Turkey.

UGANDA:

Thank you, Chair. Uganda supports the definition by Kenya, of transparency, meaning that the public can have access, but that it has to be immediate. We also support the position of Thailand.

THE PRESIDENT:

Turkey, you have the floor.

TURKEY:

Thank you very much, Madam Chair. We also support Thailand. The opening and closing plenaries can be open to the public. In order to prevent the interference of tobacco industry. Therefore, we are again saying that we support Thailand, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, China. Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT:

Djibouti, you have the floor.

DJIBOUTI:

Merci Madame la Présidente. Bonjour, tout le monde, je pense que le débat ici vient sur la transparence, mais également sur les risques que court aussi la protection des politiques de santé publique. La proposition de la Thaïlande, de la région Asie du Sud est, de la Chine, de la région Afrique montre un souci qui concerne aussi plusieurs pays. Aussi, Djibouti soutient leur proposition Merci, Madame la Présidente.

THE PRESIDENT :

Zimbabwe.

ZIMBABWE:

Thank you, Chair. We do appreciate the importance of transparency and openness in these very important debates, but at the same time we need to balance the interest, in this case we align ourselves with the position of the African group that we need to open to the public [during] the opening session and the closing session, and the other sessions are recorded and then publicised after the conference. I thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Nigeria, you have the floor.

NIGERIA:

Thank you very much, Madam President. Nigeria would like to lend its voice in support of the position of the Africa Region as expressed by Kenya earlier today, to keep the opening and the closing ceremony to be open whereas the others be closed, just to be sure that we are not exposing ourselves to the interference of the tobacco industry. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Afghanistan, you have the floor.

AFGHANISTAN:

Yes, thank you so much, and good morning to everybody, to our COP members, I would like to suggest, let us have the last session, that session of the COP is open, and that everything other should be recorded, the decision-making should be not be open, because the mafia has a long hand, and we have, we will know that they create a lot of trouble, even in Afghanistan and [many] months we were not able to approve the law for tobacco control in one year. But they change only in a few days, so, therefore, we would like to keep the thing secret and after the end, the decision should be open. Thank you so much.

THE PRESIDENT:

Nepal.

NEPAL:

We are in support of the proposal of Thailand and Maldives in order to prevent tobacco industry interference, so we are only in favour of delayed webcast, thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Panama.

PANAMA:

Buenos días, gracias señora presidenta. Nosotros quisiéramos dejar claro que apoyamos que las sesiones plenarias sean abiertas por webcasting diferido por breves minutos, pero que todas las deliberaciones de las Comisiones A y B sean abiertas sin disposición de información posterior, que queden efectivamente como sesiones en donde no se publica el contenido de las mismas por ningún medio. Gracias.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Panama. Tanzania.

TANZANIA:

Thank you Madam Chair, we took the floor just to add our voice to the position that was taken by the spokesperson for Africa group, and after all, Madam Chair, come to think of it, we are in this room because we are the ones who are supposed to be making the decisions, and we shouldn't be allowing anybody to interfere with what we are going to do for the reasons [inaudible] that are going to ensue here, and for me, to expose ourselves to people from outside with these technological possibilities means that we will be actually allowing some other people who are not part of this meeting and that won't mean that we are COP8 because we are the Conference of Parties and speakers to parties when we are making decisions, as for the opening and the closing I think it is obvious, I mean it's just a ceremony, we cannot invite everybody, thank you chair.

THE PRESIDENT:

Iran, you have the floor.

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN:

Thank you, Madam President, my delegation just would like to join those many delegations that supported keeping only the opening and closing sessions open. I think, what we have to bear in mind is that, we should not lose sight of the *raison d'être* of the COP and the Framework Convention, which is to fight tobacco. So, I think transparency and openness could not be both if it could somehow compromise that very *raison d'être*. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

And so, Madagascar.

MADAGASCAR:

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Madagascar aimerait soutenir la position africaine exprimée et expliquée par le Kenya pour des raisons évidentes que nous connaissons, il est important pour nous de garder une certaine confidentialité sur les questions techniques et ouvrir les séances d'ouverture et de clôture au public. Je vous remercie.

THE PRESIDENT:

Burkina Faso, you have the floor.

BURKINO FASO:

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Le Burkina Faso aimerait appuyer le point de vue de la Région africaine. Nous sommes étonnés d'une telle décision, si c'est pour nous faire comprendre qu'une évolution des concepts afin de nous amener progressivement vers l'acceptation de l'industrie du tabac dans nos travaux. Au niveau de la Région africaine, nous avons des difficultés énormes en ce qui concerne l'article 5.3 « L'ingérence de l'industrie du tabac ». Donc nous pensons et répétons que les séances d'ouverture et de clôture peuvent être transmises. Voilà la position. Merci.

THE PRESIDENT:

Mexico.

MEXICO:

Gracias, señora presidenta. En México también apoyamos la postura de la región de las Américas y lo mencionado por Panamá en el sentido de que la sesión plenaria y la clausura sean abiertas, todas sean abiertas incluso, pero que tengan un retraso de algunos minutos, y que las deliberaciones también sean abiertas, pero sin difusión de los contenidos de estas deliberaciones. Muchas gracias.

THE PRESIDENT :

Algeria.

ALGERIA :

Merci, Madame la Présidente, l'Algérie voudrait soutenir la position africaine avec l'ajout apporté par le Kenya. C'est-à-dire que nous soutenons que les sessions plénières soient diffusées, mais avec la protection de toutes les réunions techniques qui concernent les débats sur les questions de fond et qui pourraient être influencées par l'industrie du tabac. Merci.

THE PRESIDENT :

Iraq.

IRAQ:

نحن نرى أن يكون الهدف من هذا المؤتمر معلن بصورة مباشرة، وأيضًا نؤيد ما جاءت به إيران من موقف.
شكرًا.

THE PRESIDENT:

India, you have the floor.

INDIA:

Thank you, Mrs President, so we would like to go with the position given by Thailand. We agree that transparency is important. However, a webcast or a three-minute delayed webcast is normally not as unidirectional as it appears. Given the technology, it opens the possibility of influence to the discussion of deliberations even in the plenary, and therefore we would go with the Thailand suggestion that the proceedings can be recorded and can be relayed as other colleagues said. Access to information is important for the purpose of transparency, but not the timing, it need not be instant. All the records can be made available after the week when the COP is closed. I think that would be the best way to go. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT :

Gabon.

GABON :

Merci, le Gabon soutient la position de la région africaine. Il est vrai que la question de la transparence nous préoccupe tous, mais il ne faut pas oublier non plus que l'industrie du tabac est une machine infernale qui peut accéder à tout. C'est la raison pour laquelle, nous proposons que les réunions en plénière soient diffusées en webcast, mais que les réunions techniques ne soient pas diffusées. Je vous remercie.

THE PRESIDENT :

Niger, you have the floor.

NIGER :

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Notre pays soutient la proposition de la région africaine. Merci.

THE PRESIDENT:

Georgia.

GEORGIA:

Thank you, Madam President, distinguished delegates, Georgia also thinks that transparency is the best weapon against the tobacco industry and does support the proposal of Canada and European Union on delayed webcasts [is] which three minutes. But say, but transparency is essential, and even if the influence is exerted during the discussions it would be very obvious and transparent and I think that this is the best way to combat the influence of the tobacco industry. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT :

So, Côte d'Ivoire.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE :

Merci Madame la Présidente. A l'image de la Région africaine, nous soutenons effectivement, la position que le Bénin a partagée et nous souhaitons effectivement que la session d'ouverture et la session de clôture soient retransmises par webcast. Je vous remercie.

THE PRESIDENT:

So may I then summarize that we are all agreed that this session, the plenary and the closing, be open, and that for the Committee[s] will be, and I would suggest that once we decide that the COP is going to be open, then we will move on in an effective manner again to talk about whether we agree to the webcast, live, or with a delay of three minutes. All [of] you see that this session is already being recorded, so the recording can be released after the COP is over. So, these are the options that we have, and if you will all agree, I would say that, having agreed that the COP decides to be open, we could request the public to kindly leave the venue. Is that fine? Canada.

CANADA:

Thank you, Madam Chair, unfortunately our view would be that, our decision about whether it would be advisable to hold the COP plenaries as open, as opposed to public, depends on whether we are prepared to broadcast those with a short delay, or live. So those sessions, those decisions, cannot be separated in our perspective. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

So I request some more parties to guide us to come to a decision. I had put forward that we could have, because most of us are agreeing on it being open, then we could have decided on it being webcast live, delayed or broadcast later. Canada please said the decision to be open to all public is contingent on the decision to the webcast, so we could require more input before we decide.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thailand, you have the floor.

THAILAND:

Thank you, Madam President. I think its quite enlightening that we do get much input from Parties regarding the, um, I think we all agree that we want to be transparent. I haven't heard that we are not agreed on that concept. But the question is, how do we want to express that transparency? And I think that a few parties have offered, and we now have differences of opinion of how we should be transparent. We also agree that there is increasing tobacco industry interference at all levels, especially at COP meetings. So, I wish to ask my colleagues to redefine a solution so that we move forward. And I believe that, I wish to suggest a step-wise procedure, or a step-wise decision. We have had all the COP meetings being open, and not accessible by the public, either by webcast, live stream, so I think that for COP, I wish to ask that, if we want to have transparency, then doing it step-wise by having the plenary, the opening and closing, open, with webcams, but with some delay. Three minutes is not a delay, three minutes is like live stream. So, I think it is a good compromise to really look at how we should move forward with transparency at COP meetings. I wish to remind my colleagues again that, in the tobacco control advocates, environment and community, we adhere to transparency, we adhere to rules and regulations, but it's the tobacco industry who do not abide by any rules, they will find loopholes and ways to interfere. We have to remind ourselves that we don't want to be an instrument for the tobacco industry to interfere in our policies, development and advancement. So, I am asking that we move forward, and find some compromise. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Peru, please.

PERU:

Muchas gracias, señora presidenta. En línea con lo que ya han expresado otros colegas de la región, queremos clarificar que la posición del Perú respecto a la posibilidad de tener sesiones abiertas con un webcast diferido aplica tanto para la plenaria como para la sesión de clausura. Queremos enfatizar que los debates, tanto del Comité A como del Comité B, deben mantenerse en el formato abierto, open sessions, sin que exista una difusión de las deliberaciones. Muchas gracias.

THE PRESIDENT:

Democratic Republic of Congo, you have the floor.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO:

Appuyant notre proposition de toute à l'heure avec la Région africaine, nous sommes d'accord pour que les séances plénières d'ouverture et de clôture soient retransmises. Mais nous estimons qu'aujourd'hui même par exemple, nous pourrions retransmettre les seances plénières en différé afin que le monde sache ce qu'il a été discuté aujourd'hui.

THE PRESIDENT:

Dear delegates, we really need to arrive at a decision quickly because we are getting delayed, and we have speakers, even morning speakers who are waiting for the formal sessions. And when the afternoon session is the high-level segment. So very quickly I request Kenya, Panama and Gambia to have their say, then we need to arrive at a decision.

Kenya, you have the floor.

KENYA:

Thank you, Madam President. I would like to support Thailand once again, and ask the Canadian delegation to allow us to meet the need for transparency by recording and transmitting the discussions in COP, but not as live streaming or a three-minute delay, but at the end of COP. I would like to remind us of the COP4, I believe it was the COP5 in [the Republic of] Korea, the Kenyan delegation faced a very big challenge when the tobacco industry took recordings of our conversations, sent it back to capital, trying to seek the intervention of our government that we were misleading, that the delegation was saying things that was not agreed at capital. I think this is an example of the threat, of the intimidation that the industry can put on the delegation, just by the recording, or by reporting and using our conversations to try and find solutions to the tobacco problem by threatening and intimidating parties and delegations here and using the conversations that we have had here to do that. I therefore request that, we really have to take this seriously, because we have spent almost an hour just discussing this, and I tell you that this is a really big problem in COP, and we need to decide this once and for all, so that we can go on to do the right business that we came here to do. Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT:

European Union.

EUROPEAN UNION:

Thank you very much, Madam Chair. After this one hour of discussions, I think we have heard quite sensible proposals from the African Region and also from the AMR Region, and if we have understood correctly, it would be the opening and the closing of the COP to be open, but it goes together with a webcast, so as to ensure some public participation, and that had also been the proposal from Canada, and for us, these two go together, so only the opening and closing be open, plus the webcast, with potentially some minutes delay, but not more. As I have the floor, I would like to say that we fully agree with the exclusion of all members of the public from Committee sessions and working groups, in order to avoid opportunities for interference by the tobacco industry, and its interests. But the plenary sessions opening and closing, they should be public, or in a spirit of compromise, open plus with a webcam. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

So, Australia.

AUSTRALIA:

Thank you, Madam President. Noting the comments of our colleague from Thailand, we understand, contrary to those, that the previous sessions of the COP of the plenary sessions have been public, as opposed to open, but given though the difference of recollection here, we would appreciate clarification from the Secretariat on this. Regardless, we would take up the call for compromise and respecting the comments of our colleagues from the EU, we would be willing to agree to the session being open, but with the webcast as described. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Can a representative from the Secretariat clarify?

THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If I understood right, the question is in relation to the previous sessions of COP, and my understanding is that, since COP5, the plenaries have been open.

THE PRESIDENT:

I think Canada wants to speak again. Canada? No. Yes, Canada.

CANADA:

Excuse me for the delay, I'm sorry. First of all, I would like to point out that I am not trying to argue that we can't have delays or compromise on this proposal, I'm only trying to argue that we can't separate the conversation of how we can ensure the benefits of the transparency, while trying to control the opportunities for an interference. Which I understand is what we are all trying to do. Um, I think I heard very broad support in the room, for open for everything, and then the opening plenary and the closing plenary being effectively live broadcast. I thought I heard broad support for that. Those are not places where deep technical conversations are occurring. Um, so I was wondering if there is a potential consensus decision that says, we are open across the board, we will very short delay or live webcast the opening and the closing plenaries, if there are any other plenaries, they will be recorded, and after a delay, perhaps of a day, we could do it the next day.

THE PRESIDENT:

There is another complication. Are we talking about the opening ceremony, which is already over? Or are we talking about the First Plenary session? Botswana and Maldives want to say something, so please, you have the floor, and let's be quick.

Botswana, you have the floor.

BOTSWANA:

Thank you, president. Botswana supports the African group position, as pointed out, and takes into confidence the guidance that has actually been offered by Kenya. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Maldives, you have the floor.

MALDIVES:

Thank you, Madam Chair, I think we have some convergence already in terms of how we want to be transparent. Perhaps I think that, maybe the recommendation would be, for the Chair, you know, to see whether the Canadian proposal would be the latest one. I think what I heard, broadly, differs a bit. What I hear from this room is that opening plenary and closing plenary can be open, but webcast with a delay. And how much of a delay, is it three minutes or end of that particular session, these are things that we can come to a conclusion now, otherwise I think that there is a convergence, that we all agree that the sessions and proceedings, just like previous COPs, to be closed, I mean open. So, while we just have been, I know you asked us to be very precise and quick, Maldives would like to ask ourselves, and let us all ask ourselves, since COPs last conference, has the industry turned around, has it become better, more transparent, more trustworthy? Have you forgotten COP7, that we were unable to even agree on signing a document or form to say that I have nothing to do with the tobacco industry, thanks to the tobacco industry in COP7. So we know how they operate. If we allow them this opportunity, this avenue, that they would disrupt. They are not transparent. That's why, we cannot be transparent to that extent in dealing with a totally non-transparent party. That's my concern, so shall we move on, keeping the opening plenary and the closing plenary open, but with a possibility of webcam, with a delay, or at end of the session. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Togo.

TOGO:

Merci, Madame la Présidente. Nous vous remercions pour tous vos efforts afin de parvenir à un consensus. Afin d'éviter qu'il y ait des pressions sur les délégués dans leur hôtel ou durant la conférence, nous proposons un délai raisonnable de 7 jours pour mettre sur les discussions des séances plénières. Je vous remercie.

THE PRESIDENT:

Uruguay.

URUGUAY:

Muchas gracias, señora presidenta. Esta intervención Uruguay la realiza a título nacional. Considerando y entendiendo la sensibilidad del tema para algunas partes, Uruguay quisiera destacar las propuestas constructivas de las partes y especialmente la buena disposición de Canadá. Por esa razón, apoyamos lo propuesto por Canadá y creemos que sería posible transmitir el inicio de la plenaria y el final a través de webcasting, y que el resto se podría transmitir en diferido, incluso tal vez luego de la conferencia, si Canadá lo considera pertinente, y atendiendo también a lo propuesto por la delegación de Togo. Muchas gracias.

THE PRESIDENT:

Gambia, you have the floor.

GAMBIA:

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. In as much as we want to be transparent, but I think we should be mindful of the tobacco industry interference. To me, it doesn't make any difference whether we go on live, or we delay, this is the same exposure, what can be limited to, only the opening, and the closing.

THE PRESIDENT:

So, what I suggest is that, I request the parties to informally consult each other, and please then but arrive at a decision. And I request Canada to be flexible. In the meantime, I suggest that we go ahead with the business of the day, so can we adopt the agenda and organize our work?

CANADA:

Thank you very much, Chair. I do take some objection to being called out to be more flexible. We have essentially moved from our initial position. We have several reasons for supporting the position we put forward. It is others who have not moved. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

So, should we go ahead with adoption of the agenda and organization of work? In the meantime, I request the parties to consult each other informally. Anything on the agenda? So, the Provisional Agenda was prepared in consultation with the Bureau, and in accordance with rule 6 and 7 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties before being circulated to the Parties. Are there any objections to adopting the Provisional Agenda as presented in the document FCTC/COP/8/1/REV.1? Uruguay.

URUGUAY:

Muchas gracias, señora presidenta. Hacemos uso de la palabra como coordinación regional. Simplemente para retomar un comentario que hicimos al inicio de esta sesión de la propuesta de la región de las Américas de que el punto 7.1 sea tratado antes del punto 6 dentro del Comité A. Habíamos realizado esa sugerencia y entiendo que no se llegó a considerar por el plenario. Gracias, señora presidenta.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you for the delegation. So, we can take a call on this one, we organize the work between the committees. Any other issue? Any other objection? Senegal.

SENEGAL :

Les remarques que nous avons formulées tout à l'heure, la région africaine de l'OMS recommande de modifier l'ordre de discussion établi dans l'ordre du jour en déplaçant le point 6 relatif aux instruments d'applications du traité et aux questions techniques après la discussion

des points 7.1 relatif à la stratégie mondiale et 8.2 relatif à la transparence des délégations. Je vous remercie.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, we'll take a note of this, and the work of the Committee will be arranged accordingly. Anybody else?

So, I, then... So, the agenda is therefore adopted. It's live to this.

[Applause]

Now we can consider the organization of the work of the session. The Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau has made a proposal on the method and distribution of work which is contained in the annotated agenda document FCTC/COP/8/1 and annotated, specifically the proposal is that, following the practice of the previous sessions of the Conference of the Parties, and considering the amount of work before us, the conference may wish to establish two committees that will work in parallel. It is proposed that one committee, that is Committee A, would be interested on work on treaty instruments and technical matters under Agenda item 6, and on matters relating to reporting, implementation assistance and international cooperation under Agenda Item number 7. The other committee, that's Committee B, should work on budgetary and institutional matters under agenda item 8. Also, the committee may wish to establish working groups in accessory to expedite work. So I would want your comments on this.

I think it's acceptable. So, if you will agree, that the remaining items on the agenda, we can move on with the other items on the agenda. So, I would now request a keynote address by the Head of the Convention Secretariat, and after that we'll come to the credentials of the participants. Dr Vera, the floor is yours.

6. KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE HEAD OF THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT (Item 1.3.)

So, thank you very much, distinguished guests, dear delegates, colleagues and friends.

Four years ago, not long after being appointed Head of the Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, I led the Sixth, Seventh sessions of the Conference of the Parties convention. It was for me a unique experience, on so many levels, but at the same time, it was ever so rewarding. Looking back at the past four years, I am so proud of what we have achieved. With a small team of 18 people, the Convention Secretariat has worked diligently to increase assistance to governments at all levels of development to implement the WHO FCTC. Under the exceptional guidance of the Bureau of the COP and the Regional Coordinators, and in accordance with the decisions of COP, we have boosted the network of observers to the COP and have worked hand-in-hand with them to coordinate responses to this tobacco epidemic including innovative approaches that promote intersectoral collaboration at country level. Beyond the observers of COP, we have increased the number of Convention Secretariat's Knowledge Hubs, supported by governments from our Parties, to seven, by developing skills and building capacity in a wide range of areas. We have also supported the establishment of Observatories to monitor the deceiving strategies employed by the tobacco industry in a number of countries. Our goal is to have a global platform with real time information on this issue. With a very small regular budget but depending on the reliability, resilience and strong commitment

from each member of the Secretariat's team, together with partners, and the generous contribution of some Parties, we have given the Convention anew momentum by supporting and working towards our goals. I will highlight four specific achievements:

1. The inclusion of "strengthening the implementation of the WHO FCTC in all Parties", as one of the targets under Sustainable Development Goal 3, part of the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all under the SDG 2030 Agenda.

2. The delisting by the UN Global Compact of the tobacco industry from their roster of private sector socially responsible companies, thus putting the tobacco industry on the same level with chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

3. The recommendations by the United Nations Economic and Social Council to all UN agencies to adopt a model policy rejecting the acceptance of funds from the tobacco industry.

4. The successful entering into force of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, which is a second treaty in its own right. That occurred just a week ago.

Additionally, plain packaging of tobacco products became an important end game tool with a true domino effect despite the efforts of the tobacco industry to block new laws mandating plain packaging. It was reassuring to learn that a World Trade Organization panel found that tobacco plain packaging measures are not inconsistent with the Treaty Agreement, the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, and GATT in response to a case put forward against Australia by a number of WTO Member States. Thanks to the government of the United Kingdom, joined later by Australia, the Convention Secretariat has been engaged in a very important and unique development assistance project, called FCTC 2030 which is already achieving positive outcomes in 15 countries. We were also very fortunate to receive extrabudgetary contributions from Norway, Panama, EU, Canada and Netherlands in the last biennium, and in thanking them we also invite other Parties to join them in their Official Development Assistance contributions to strengthen the implementation of the Convention.

Even though many governments have advanced tobacco control actions and clearly progressed on implementing the Convention, this is not a time to be complacent. Great challenges lie just ahead, but Parties moving at disparate paces and the future remains uncertain. Many Parties, in fact too many Parties, have yet to implement the overdue time-bound requirements under Articles 8, 11 and 13 of the Convention. This is the right time for Parties to assess their commitments, engagements and actions with regards to the implementation on the WHO FCTC. They should ask themselves whether they are satisfied with the progress they have achieved, and whether they have fully utilized the "power of the treaty" to reach optimum national tobacco control. Looking at global progress, it is undeniable that there is still much more that Parties can do. For those that are further down the road of the Convention implementation, their knowledge and experience should be widely shared. The tobacco industry, fuelled by astronomic budgets, continues its furious efforts to undermine the implementation of our treaty. New front groups and entities have been created overnight in the four corners of the world. They pretend to propose alternative livelihoods to tobacco growing, eradicate child labour, promote respect for human rights, control illicit trade and protect smokers and non-smokers from the harmful effect of second-hand smoke. But we know their real intentions.

In addition, new emerging tobacco products are flooding our streets and our shops, and their aggressive marketing techniques have taken many governments by surprise, cleverly using loopholes in existing laws. Parties should expedite implementation of Article 5.3 Guidelines and ensure that they are applicable to all commercial and vested interests of the tobacco industry,

including addressing unproven claims of harm reduction. Despite the ECOSOC resolution, some UN agencies are still being pursued by the tobacco industry to directly or indirectly partner and use industry funds. Besides supporting projects with no real impact, these funds show a clear conflict of interest and are in absolute violation of the spirit of the WHO FCTC and Article 5.3. We hope that policy coherence is the guiding principle for the UN adherence to ECOSOC resolution. Some governments still must be persuaded that the process of nominating their delegates to attend COPs is by itself an important tool to protect our treaty from the vested interests of the tobacco industry. A COP delegation should, above all else, prioritize the essence of the treaty. In that sense, it has become urgent and utterly vital to maximize transparency from whoever is around the table to guide the work of the treaty, its guidelines and Protocols. This is also true for the Convention Secretariat whose staff must be above any real or perceived conflict of interest.

The Mid-term Strategic Framework, which included a proposed Implementation review mechanism, provides an excellent opportunity to guide and support global tobacco control actions. We call on WHO, COP observers and global partners to use it, if adopted, as a roadmap to coordinate future action. Cross-border advertising is a continuous threat to an effective population level approach to tobacco control, especially when the world is increasingly digital. We have still a lot to do also in implementing Article 17 and 18, and in promoting gender and indigenous population-sensitive approaches. As you are well aware, this year we will be convening the First Meeting of the Parties for the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products. For this first MOP, 46 Parties to the Protocol will gather to begin putting together the Protocol's architecture and give the Convention Secretariat its first mandate, and we are proud of it. We encourage Parties of the convention that have not already done so, to join the Protocol.

Once more, while we are proud of the progress we have achieved, it is critical to consider funding mechanisms as a high priority, especially to drive forward the two treaties. We wish the Parties will agree to guarantee the core work of the Governing Bodies of the treaty and the Convention Secretariat by adopting the proposed workplans for the 2020–2021, with the adjustments it entails to address cost sharing between COP and MOP. We are also pleased that COP8 will consider a proposal for an innovative funding mechanism that, without compromising the regular budget and existing extrabudgetary contributions, can ensure sustainability of the Convention Secretariat. And last but definitely not least, please allow me to share with you some final thoughts from my four years' experience as Head of the Secretariat. First, strengthening the Convention Secretariat is absolutely key to providing Parties, but also the wider tobacco control community and the treaties, with the necessary support, tailored responses to new demands, and with an adequate defence to the relentless attacks of the tobacco industry.

Second, the urgency in implementing supply reduction measures of the treaty takes us in a new direction, beyond the health sector. While keeping the treaty linked to the health sector, it is now time to ensure that we are acknowledged as a multisectoral treaty Secretariat, so that we can more legitimately engage with non-health sectors. In this regard, it is fundamental that Parties reinforce the mandate of the Convention Secretariat, as agreed at COP1, to represent within the UN and globally the operational arm of the Convention and now of the Protocol. The Convention Secretariat should be considered as an entity hosted by WHO, but with semi independence on treaty and technical matters that should be only mandated by the COP and the MOP. Finally, COP8 this year is themed around the protection of present and future generations. Tobacco control is pivotal to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. At this COP,

distinguished delegates, you have the power to make the right decisions, to change the equation, to ensure that commercial interest and private profits are not placed above the interests of equity, development and sustainability. I wish us all success this week. Thank you very much.

[Applause]

THE PRESIDENT

Thank you, Vera for a very informative and enlightening keynote address. With the permission of the Parties, may I now request our invited speakers to address us? So I request the minister Grace Maria Fernandes Mendonça, Attorney General of Brazil, to kindly address us.

7. INVITED SPEAKER (ITEM 3):

7.a MINISTER GRACE MARÍA FERNANDES MENDONÇA, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF BRAZIL

Madam President of this Conference of the Parties, Madam Preti Sudan, Madam Chief of the Secretariat Vera da Costa Silva, ladies and gentlemen, heads of delegations, among whom I take the liberty of greeting in particular the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil, Ambassador Maria Nazareth Farani Azevedo. Ladies and gentlemen, I have reflected on the progress made, sharing experiences that have hitherto been successful, planning short- and medium-term actions capable of transforming reality and protecting present and future generations from the harmful effects of tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke. These are certainly some aspects of this conference, and it is time to learn about the challenges overcome by countries that have embraced the cause of tobacco control. It is time to learn about the challenges of countries that have had the strength to implement effective barriers to restrict tobacco use, whether preventive or statutory in nature. It is time to work hard to give maximum objectivity to the objectives of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Indeed, ladies and gentlemen, it is only through these forces that it will be possible to reverse the still bleak picture of the effects of tobacco consumption on the world's population. Much has been done so far, certainly. This is true, much has been done. However, notwithstanding the efforts of all nations, especially the signatory nations of the Convention, the global numbers are still alarming. According to the World Health Organization, data released in 2018 show that smoking-related illnesses still kill seven million people worldwide every year. The data also show that 900 000 people die each year from inhaling the smoke emitted by smokers. These numbers are terrifying, but they should not discourage us. On the contrary, they must drive us forward to implement specific actions to overcome obstacles and change this picture. This change, we all know, is not instantaneous. Yes, this change is a commitment by all of us, to eliminate the main causes of chronic diseases and death due to smoking. I cite here the experience of Brazil: as soon as the Federative Republic of Brazil adopted the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control we realized that its challenging objectives could only be achieved through the involvement of all three branches of government of the Republic, in addition to state institutions. We created a National Commission, composed of representatives of multiple state bodies, 18 state sectors, with a precise objective: to implement the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control throughout Brazil, by establishing an effective intersectoral government agenda. The remit of the National Commission, by the way, is quite far-reaching and is in proportion to the vastness of Brazilian territory. But we wanted to see it through with a high degree of seriousness, commitment and success. Strategies for action, plans, programmes, partnerships, and dialogues with civil society are being worked out by this Commission with the firm purpose of reducing tobacco consumption in Brazil. The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control has become for us in Brazil an important national public policy. The results

of all this work are already apparent. Between 1990 and 2015, the percentage of daily smokers in Brazil decreased from 29% to 19% among men and from 19% to 8% among women. According to a survey released by the Brazilian Government in 2017, the number of smokers in Brazil decreased by 36%, thus placing our country in a prominent position in a global context. This fall in the percentage of smokers is the result of a series of actions taken by the federal and state government institutions. Some of these deserve mention. We created a minimum price policy, i.e. a minimum fixed price for selling cigarettes, thereby preventing sales below this level. This is a barrier of access to the product, thereby discouraging its consumption. We have revised our cigarette taxation policy through changes to the system of tax revenue collection on manufactured goods, so as to increase the tax burden on tobacco products. We have prohibited the consumption of cigarettes, cigarillos, pipes, cigars and other tobacco or non-tobacco products commonly used public spaces. Through our integrated health care system, all Brazilians can access free tobacco cessation treatment. We offer medicines, tablets and chewing gums for nicotine replacement therapy. We have established a National Tobacco Control Program, coordinated by our National Cancer Institute and supported by the Cancer Foundation, considered by the World Health Organization to be one of the best in the world. We regulate, ladies and gentlemen, the formal registration of cigarettes. We prohibit, ladies and gentlemen, the advertising of smoking products in our media. We have banned sponsorship of cultural and sporting events by cigarette manufacturers. We have made it mandatory to insert health warning signs on cigarette packaging. We have instituted, ladies and gentlemen, an agency - the National Health Surveillance Agency - which has the regulatory power to issue regulations – in fact it has already done so - to clearly bring about the objectives set out in the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control here in Brazil. It is also worth noting here a decision by the Brazilian Health Surveillance Agency prohibiting the use of aroma and flavour additives in smoking products. To ensure, ladies and gentlemen, that all these measures are carried out in national territory, we have the largest public law office in the world, the Federal Attorney's Office, the institution where I work and which I have the honour to lead. The Federal Attorney's Office has 12 000 officials and 8600 lawyers spread across Brazilian territory. Our staff closely monitor the policy of controlling and combating tobacco use. As regards the implementation of the objectives of the Framework Convention, we take action, Madam President, Madam Secretary, ladies and gentlemen, in two very clearly defined areas: first, we engage in preventive advocacy, in other words we guide all ministerial portfolios in relation to any tobacco-related laws or regulations they are considering. All of these must be aligned with the objectives of the Convention. Notwithstanding this effort of effective preventive advocacy, when these texts come before the Brazilian courts, the Federal Attorney's Office has developed a high-quality litigation arm, i.e. it fights in the courts to enforce the objectives of the Convention. Our lawyers are engaged in landmark legal disputes and have obtained key victories towards implementing the objectives of the Convention. By the way, many of these legal battles in our Constitutional Court and the Brazilian Supreme Court deserve to be noted here. To illustrate this work, I would like to cite here one of our perhaps most emblematic cases, with the absolute certainty it has entered the annals of tobacco control policy. We in Brazil acted in defense of the legislation, the normative act, that challenged norms setting tar and carbon monoxide limits on cigarettes and restricted aroma and taste additives in tobacco products. We at the Federal Attorney's Office were involved in this historic judgement, in fact I had the honour of defending the constitutionality of this statute before the Brazilian Supreme Court. In this judgment the Federal Supreme Court upheld our argument and in the light of the scientific and technical evidence we presented, recognized the validity of the standard. We cited, ladies and gentlemen, a finding by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, which demonstrated that 90% of smokers in Brazil had started their addiction to or use and consumption of tobacco products between the

ages of 5 and 19 years, exactly coinciding with the opinion of the World Health Organization that smoking is indeed a paediatric disease. We therefore needed to look closely at the issue from that perspective. If flavour or aroma additives stimulate and facilitate consumption by our children, we needed to take immediate action, to reaffirm our commitment to the objectives of the Framework Convention. And, ladies and gentlemen, this is exactly what Brazil did and our course of action was challenged by the industry over which we obtained, before the Brazilian Constitutional Court, a very important victory for this policy. There are currently 600 cigarette additives that can enhance the effect of nicotine and function as bronchodilators. We therefore needed to act swiftly, because ultimately what is at stake here is the health of our children. The constitutionality that was affirmed by the Federal Supreme Court was the fruit, therefore, of intense efforts by our state institution, the Federal Attorney's Office. We cannot overemphasize the importance of the work that we did on this case, Madam President, Secretary and delegation representatives. The Brazilian Federal Attorney's Office is involved in approximately 20 million cases a year. But among all these cases, issues relating to the implementation of the Framework Convention deserve more than differentiated treatment. We monitor and track all court proceedings, step by step, to ensure that policy does not just remain on paper but actually becomes a tangible reality. Ladies and gentlemen, each judicial victory in Brazil means that we come closer to the objectives of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. As state attorneys, we are committed to this cause. The numbers in Brazil are still alarming. In spite of all our efforts, the numbers still drive us to work much harder, because in Brazil smoking is still responsible for the death of over 400 people a day, or 150 000 people a year. In Brazil, tobacco-related diseases cost the integrated health system something like 59.9 billion reais every year. What does this mean for us all, and especially in Brazil? It means that the challenge still requires focus and determined action. It means that we are experiencing in Brazil a gradual but nevertheless constant series of achievements on tobacco control. It also means, perhaps, that Brazil's experience can serve as an inspiration to other nations which like us have embraced the cause but for some reason have encountered resistance to implementation of the central pillars of the Framework Convention. Ladies and gentlemen, we have no doubt that the realization of the common and fundamental interests of humanity can be achieved, rather, by joining forces and working together, strengthened in particular by opportunities such as this Conference. We know that our globalized reality, where physical distances between nations have no meaning given the speed of information and interaction among peoples, thereby enabling really important issues that are essential for human life to be addressed through a process of uniting knowledge, information exchange and joint strategies. There is much work to be done, we have no doubt. Future confrontations and challenges are right before us, and we have no illusions about that either. But we can assure everyone that Brazil is an ally of all nations that prioritize the right to health and embrace the challenge of protecting present and future generations from harm and the devastating consequences of tobacco consumption. Today we reaffirm our purpose to make the principles of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control a day-to-day reality, in the certainty that together we will be able to move forward and that our present actions will be decisive for the future. And that, firm in this purpose, which will guide all our actions, the greatest good that deserves to be protected by all of us is life itself. It is this that moves us, that impels us to take firm and secure steps to implement the objectives of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Thank you very much for the honour of being able to share with you Brazil's experience in relation to this topic, especially the important victories we have obtained in court proceedings where the implementation of this policy was being challenged. Together, we are in a position to build a better world. Together we can protect our children. Thank you very much for your attention.

THE PRESIDENT

Thank you very much, Minister, for that insightful address and for highlighting that, though we have made great strides, we have a long way ahead. Thanks for sharing the Brazil experience. Lessons to learn for all of us. I now request Ms Anne Bucher, Director-General Health and Food Safety of the European Union, European Commission, to please address us.

7.b. ANNE BUCHER, DIRECTOR GENERAL, HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Ladies and gentlemen, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to be here today. Tobacco consumption remains the single largest avoidable health risk, and the most significant cause of premature death in the European Union. It has immense and unacceptable impact on the lives of our citizens, and also on the sustainability of our health systems. That's why I'm so delighted to join you for the opening of the Eighth Conference of the Parties to the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. In fact, it is my first day as Director General of the EU Directorate General for Health and Food Safety, and I couldn't think of a better way of spending it, here with you, on this topic, tackling broad public health issues like tobacco control, was one of my motivations when I joined this Directorate General. The EU has always championed multilateralism, and we live in a world which is very connected, ever more now, and its sustainable progress depends on the rule based international order, and strong partnerships. The World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control is the first-ever global health treaty, and it is an excellent example of multilateralism in practice. It is also something that the EU is very proud of. During the drafting of the FCTC, some of the Articles reflected the high standards in tobacco control that we already had in the EU, and I think it's fair to say that we helped shape the treaty. And now in turn, the FCTC is helping to shape us. The treaty is interwoven in our tobacco control policy, we even refer to it in our EU legislation, and it is then framed in the Sustainable Development Goals, and it will continue to shape our policy agenda for the next generation.

The FCTC addresses tobacco control in a comprehensive way. It includes traditional public health work, it includes also tobacco product regulation, labelling rules, restrictions on advertising, protection from second hand smoke, but it also touches on broader tobacco control policies like tobacco taxation, economically viable alternatives to tobacco farming, and illicit trade. The protocol on illicit trading in tobacco products is an important contribution to a holistic approach. And the wide range of policies and approaches is important. Impactful and effective health policies need buying from agriculture, from education from trade sectors, from the world of culture and entertainment, from town planning, from taxation, and it is for tobacco control. While we look forward to the future, I think we should first recall the achievements already made in tobacco control. And here, I start at home. Within the EU, tobacco products are not like any other products you put on the single market. Although they are legal products, there is a high level of health protection which applies to them. We are determined to protect citizens through strong regulation of tobacco products, as well as their advertising promotion and sponsorship, and we have introduced large-size pictorial warnings, and countries like France, the UK, Ireland and Hungary have been implementing plain packaging measures, and others will follow suit. At the same time, I'm frustrated on how easy it is for young people, for the next generation to obtain tobacco products, the way in which this generation is exposed to tobacco marketing and the measures that are protected in themes and the social media. Let's

take illicit trade. Illicit trade amplifies tobacco's negative effect, by making it easier to buy tobacco products.

And furthermore, illicit products are often cheaper, and they are also much less likely to carry the regular health warnings. To minimize this risk, we are rolling out in the EU the tobacco products track and trace system. We will be the first regional jurisdiction to have such a system, cross-border system, this system will be functional in the summer, and it will start with cigarettes and roll-your-own tobacco. And I look forward to coming back to you and share the lessons that we have learned with this track and trace system. I said I am frustrated with, by how easy it is for young people to obtain tobacco products. I'm also very concerned by young people taking up smoking and vaping. And if 70% of smokers were under the age of 18 when they started smoking, and I am determined that we do more to protect our children and our young people. New tobacco product such as e-cigarettes issues are a particular challenge. Their market share is growing, and I'm worried that some of these are especially attractive to young people. We need to look at them more carefully, we need to regulate them appropriately. The next years will be crucial, and I consider that the Conference of the Parties is an important forum in that respect. And that's why the EU has proposed a draft decision at the COP. Our children are our most vulnerable citizens, and they are our most precious resources, and at EU level we make use of all the tools at our disposal to prevent young people from developing new addictions. We are also looking into amending our tobacco taxation provisions, and consultations have started on this issue, and each of these actions takes place in view of the EU commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which explicitly refers to the FCTC.

And I urge you all to join in these efforts. And in that sense, the theme of this Conference is well chosen, protecting present and future generations is in essence the underlying aim of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The EU and the Member States are strong supporters of the Sustainable Development Goals and the links with the FCTC. And indeed, there is an appealing virtuous circle that holistic healthy policy approach is needed for effective tobacco control. And full implementation of the FCTC is the stated objective of the 2030 Agenda. And this agenda in turn emphasizes the inter-connected mutually reinforcing nature of wider SDGs. So the clear message then is that health is no longer simply the remit of health ministers. Neither is development, simply the responsibility of those working in development. Instead, effective partnerships across sectors are crucial, as is the political commitment for it. However, realizing these goals requires sufficient financial resources on top of the political backing. Consequently, the EU budget, as well as the individual Member States in the EU, have provided financial support for the implementation of the FCTC. On top of the assessed contribution, the European Commission has been supporting the FCTC Secretariat with direct grants. And this year a new grant will support the work of the Secretariat on tobacco traceability. The European Union is also preparing a new programme for the next four years with the WHO. It will seek to strengthen health system in all African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, and the countries of the former universal health coverage partnership. And this means that in practice 100 countries will be able to improve the prevention and fight against NCDs, and that's an area where tobacco control plays an important role.

I also want to recognize the work of the FCTC 2030 project funded by the United Kingdom and Australia, which supports government wide tobacco control strategies in 15 countries. I mean this includes strengthening tobacco taxation, ending tobacco advertising, introducing effective health warnings on tobacco packs, and introducing smoke free work and public places. Each of these steps is a huge milestone and has a tangible impact on peoples' lives. Our widespread efforts to fight NCDs is a recognition. But the response is a true long-term vision on tobacco

that addresses other global challenges, including sustainable development, Including environmental protection, climate change and human rights. I know you will discuss this later but let me highlight two areas where the EU contributes to this broader agenda. First one is sustainable farming, and alternatives to tobacco farming. Tobacco production within the European Union represents less than 3% of global production. And our tobacco cultivation is constantly decreasing. We are now encouraging farmers to switch to alternatives to tobacco farming, and our post 2020 common agricultural policy foresees coupled support for specific crops other than tobacco. It includes for instance the crops which have the potential to substitute fossil fuels. Such support may work as a financial incentive to abandon tobacco production in the EU altogether.

So apart from alternatives to farming tobacco, we also acting in the area of tobacco product waste. Every year, copious numbers of cigarette butts litter our streets and our countryside. They contaminate our soil and our water. They are often listed as the top 10 in marine litter surveys, they are part of the so-called single use plastic which forms half of the marine litter found on European beaches. And in January, the European Commission adopted a European strategy for plastic which will contribute significantly to the United Nations 2030 agenda, and this strategy aims not only to be the circular economy for plastic but also to reduce marine pollution from all sources. And we have in particular proposed a legislation to reduce the impact of single use plastic products, specifically for cigarette butts, it will require Member States to set up extended producer liability scheme. So therefore, cigarette producers will have to pay for the clean up of littered cigarette butts and for awareness-raising campaigns. So, we are now discussing this proposal with the European Parliament and Council, and we hope to reach an agreement by next spring. Despite all our efforts, tobacco still kills more than seven million people each year. Seven million people each year, that means the entire population of Bulgaria.

So how can we change this frightening picture? One, we maximise synergies, and process all collaborations to face major global challenges, and tobacco control is an important part of this joint effort. Two, we collectively ensure the full implementation of the FCTC. Three, we will continue to maintain the focus on health concerns, but tobacco also touches many key areas at the heart of countries' administration, including taxation, market regulation, import-export, visual media, environmental protection, and I urge all countries here to take bold steps in each of these areas. And four, of course the FCTC was signed and ratified by the whole government of a Party, and not just by the health ministry. And that means that its provision must be respected and protected by all sectors of government. And Article 5.3 is very clear in this regard. And in this very meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and indeed in all meetings, policies and measures taken at national and international level must be free of influence of the tobacco industry and other vested interests. The European Union has always been a strong supporter of the FCTC, and we have constantly been at the forefront of tobacco control and we will continue to take decisive action in this area. This is a global problem. It requires global solutions by global users, and we will need to continue standing shoulder to shoulder to promote public health and save lives. And for my part, you can take my presence here today as a signal of my commitment to tobacco control. And I really look forward to work closely with you and protect the present and future generations from the dangers of tobacco. Thank you.

[Applause]

CONTINUATION OF ITEM 1.1.

THE PRESIDENT

Thank you Ms Bucher for highlighting how easy availability of tobacco products affects our children, in particular. New products are an enamouring challenge and we need to consolidate our efforts and thank you for your personal commitment.

Now, may I ask the Conference of Parties whether we have reached a consensus? I believe we have. And we have been public for all this time. Canada.

CANADA:

Thank you very much, Madam Chair, and first of all I'd like to thank you for allowing us the space to reach what I hope will be a consensus to make sure in a moment. I'd also like to thank colleagues from all regions who, for their efforts to come together and reach a consensus on what to do in terms of the conduct of this meeting. We all recognize the validity and the importance of both transparency and desire for transparency, and the need to ensure that the debates of the COP are protected from the influence of the tobacco industry. So recognising this, and recognising that the idea of webcasting of the COP is a brand new idea. We offer the following, which I think is a consensus of all regions. These meetings will be conducted as open meetings. The plenaries will be webcast effectively live, we didn't mind between, sort of live, or a three-minute delay, whatever is easier technically. This applies to the opening plenary, right up to [Agenda] Item 5. It also applies to the closing plenary, but with one reservation, that is recognising the legitimate concerns expressed by many parties about potential influence over debate. If the COP finds that there are certain items that have not been resolved in Committee, and require debate at the plenary in closing, these debates will not be broadcast. Once again, I would like to thank all of the Parties for coming together, for the flexibility on all sides, and thank you again chair.

[Applause]

THE PRESIDENT

I think this deserves a loud applause and thank you very much. The real trend of COP actually lives and our ability to come together to resolve our differences, I thank each one of you here, thank you very much. So, with this good news, I request, since this is an open session now, I request the public to kindly, and the media of course, to kindly leave the room, thank you very much. In fact, you will need to leave the venue of the COP. Since it has been decided that COP8 will be open, I would request the public, and the media, to not attend our sessions. We have a press conference pursuant to the closure of this particular session, so I invite the media to that session, and I thank each one of you here, and especially our invited guests for such illuminating addresses, and we will also break for lunch now, and meet after lunch. Before I close, I request the Convention Secretariat to make some announcements that need to be made for us to function well.

THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT

Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. Just for clarification, now that the parties have decided that the meetings of the Conference will be open, the media and the public are kindly requested to leave the room, and it is my understanding that the practice has been for the public to also leave the premises of the Conference of the Parties. Thank you very much.

The meeting rose at 13:00

SECOND PLENARY MEETING

Monday, 1 October 2018, at 15:00

8. HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT (ITEM 4)

THE PRESIDENT

Dear delegates, distinguished guests, it is an honour for me to moderate this COP8 High-Level Segment on Tobacco Control and Global Climate Action. This is the first time that we are having a High-level Segment, so another first for COP8. We are here today to discuss not a very well-known aspect of tobacco use, and that is its negative effect on environment and consequently on climate change. As you know, Article 18 of FCTC says that Parties agree to have dual regard to the protection of environment in respect of tobacco cultivation and manufacture. However, we know that in practice, only a few Parties to the Convention are taking measures in this respect. It is important to start creating awareness about this pressing issue, learn from each other, and involve all relevant government, non-government stakeholders for development of coherent policies. This is why the Convention Secretariat has organized this High-level Segment with these distinguished speakers today. The Convention Secretariat will also be launching, during this COP8, a report produced by Imperial College London, which demonstrates how smoking destroys the environment and undermines sustainable development. The title of this report is *Cigarette Smoking and Assessment of Tobacco's Global Environmental Footprint Across its Entire Supply Chain and Policy Strategies to Reduce It*. We hope to be able to produce and provide an impetus for action to protect future generations from the devastating effects of tobacco use and its effect on the environment and climate change. I would like to express my deep gratitude to our invited panellists who have generously accepted to participate in this event. Her Excellency Ms Tina Gifty Naa Ayele Mensah, Deputy Minister for Health, Ghana. Thank you, Ma'am for being here. Mr. Paul Blokhuis, State Secretary for Health, Welfare and Sport, Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, The Netherlands, thank you for being with us. Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Deputy Director General World Health Organization, thank you. Mr. Paul Desanker, Manager Adaption, Plans and Policy, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. I would now like to invite them to please address us. Her Excellency, Honourable Deputy Minister, Tina Gifty Naa Ayele Mensah, the floor is yours, ma'am.

DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH, GHANA - H.E. Tina Gifty Naa Ayele MENSAH

Thank you very much, Madam Preeti. All dignitaries here present, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, it is a delight to be invited here this afternoon to participate in this all-important High-Level Segment meeting on Tobacco Control and Global Climate Action. WHO estimation is that globally about about six million, six to seven million people die yearly out of the use of tobacco, the use of tobacco. Six hundred thousand out of them are from the exposure to the tobacco smoke. We also have a research which shows that 4.5 trillion cigarette butts are thrown away yearly, representing 1.69 billion pounds of toxic trash. Another research shows

that part of the global deforestation is the result of cutting trees for tobacco planting. Two hundred thousand hectares of natural wood biomass is lost each year due to tobacco plantation. As we know, it takes any real concern, concerning the health and then the environmental consequences. Ghana, in 1948, the British American Tobacco [Company] established a distribution depot in Ghana. This led to the establishment of the tobacco company, the British American Tobacco company. We started the growing cultivation of the tobacco leaves in Ghana and the manufacturing of the products. However, since 2007, Ghana hasn't produced or cultivate the tobacco in any large quantity. It is actually not cultivated in any or produced in any tobacco, but then we cannot sit on concern, because we live in a global world. Tobacco gets to our country through other countries, other means, so we should be concerned with whatever is going on.

Ghana, in achieving the control, in 2010, hosted the Article 17 and 18 working group meeting in April, which drafted the policy option on implementation of these two Articles, the 17 and 18. Seventeen which enjoins Parties to work with partners to support economic revival or alternative livelihood activities, while 18 requires Parties to protect the health of tobacco handlers and the environmental guiding of tobacco cultivation and manufacturing. Ghana strongly upholds and fully supports the key strategies in these Articles and in promoting research, development and implementing educational and training programs for workers and growers, removing obstacles to diversification, strengthening multisectoral collaborations, identifying and regulating tobacco industries, strengthening existing streams to support alternative livelihood. Ghana is working closely with the UNDP and has completed pilot studies in three districts selected from the northern, middle and coastal zones, and has taken a comprehensive review of our integrated disease, and response, stemmed to incorporate climate resilience and gender-sensitive indicators to promote to protect, their vulnerable groups. We're working with a civil society that must, working with the Ministry of Health and Ghana Health Service and supported by CTFK [Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids], we have conducted study into the existence and operation of the tobacco industry which findings have been fed into our current tobacco control measures.

Smoking in public places is banned in Ghana under the tobacco control measures of our public health and has been enforced by the Food and Drug Authority. Ghana in a September dossier, participated in a meeting in Uganda, Kampala, organised by the CTCA [Centre for Tobacco Control in Africa] that reviewed a strategy on alternative livelihood to support Parties in Africa faced with tobacco growing and manufacturing and to deal with the tactics of the tobacco industry. We believe that the best way to achieve the health objective of Sustainable Development Goals is to highlight and champion advocacy and education and to take concrete steps to protect the environment and the impact of climate change. Giving Article 17 and 18 a priority now is more relevant than ever. But it also requires Parties to build partnerships, particularly developing, monitoring and evaluating matrices that relate alternative livelihood and environmental protection strategic objectives to a stakeholder's role and responsibilities, and by so doing, enhancing the resourcefulness of all stakeholders. I think this is what Ghana has put in place, there are a few more that Ghana has put in place, to make sure there are many ways of control for the tobacco industries. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Can I go? If you try mine, I think that one is working. They're both working. Thank you, Honourable Minister, for sharing the Ghana experience on this very important theme. May I know request, Mr Paul Blokhuis, the State Secretary for Health, Welfare and Sport, Netherlands. You have the floor.

**STATE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND SPORT,
THE NETHERLANDS – Mr. Paul BLOKHUIS**

Thank you, Ms. President. Thank you for pronouncing my name well—Blokhuus. It's quite difficult for most of the countries. Ladies and gentlemen, I think it is important to have this high-level event today, the first day of this week. I think it is important to involve political leaders on the issue of tobacco. About one year ago, I started as a Secretary of State in the coalition Government, taking up office in the Netherlands. We were able to do something we didn't do before, namely include explicit and ambitious words on tobacco control in our coalition agreement. Thereby committing the whole government in our ultimate ambition, and that is, a smoke-free generation. Smoking kills. We all know. That's why I don't want to have any contact with the tobacco industry except for technical matters. Some 80% of Dutch smokers don't want to smoke. The average prevalence of smokers in the Netherlands is about 23%. I'm not very proud of it but we come from a history in which 90% of the Dutch men were smoking in the '50s of the last century, but still 23% of the adults are smoking and 80% of them say we want to stop. We don't want to smoke. So, I'm particularly grateful for the political momentum for ambitious tobacco control policies in the Netherlands. When it comes to the WHO FCTC, my country had quite a rocky start. We started immediately, 2005, but we had a rocky start. The first five years, there was not much development, but now we're moving fast. FCTC gives society organizations a prominent role in tobacco control, and rightly so. It was the same, strong societal movement in the Netherlands pushing for political commitment, a society, which urges to hold the tobacco industry accountable for its actions. With many of these organizations, I'm working on a National Prevention Programme. It concerns overweight, alcohol but also tobacco. This agreement, prevention agreement, will be presented at the end of October. If you're interested, we can send you a copy of it. The ultimate ambition of this agreement is a smoke-free generation in 2040. I know there are even countries that have a limit in 2030, the ambition, a smoke-free generation in 2030. That's a bit too fast for the Dutch.

I think – 2040 is quite a big ambition for our country. In the same year, we will have achieved that no more than about 5% of the adults will smoke against 23% nowadays. Those are quite big ambitions, and I think we all have to work on it. In order to reach this, children have to be able to grow up in a smoke-free environment, starting with a smoke-free pregnancy by the parents. Still about 9% of the pregnant women are smoking. Therefore, the agreement we are working on will contain clear goals and measures and actions, a wide variety of partners is involved, education, schools, sports organizations, health-care professionals, child day-care and so on – also cities and local communities. They will all take up their part. For example, some measures that will be taken: all schoolyards will be smoke-free in 2020. There will be a display ban. We will work on higher taxes, much higher than nowadays, just like France, one of our neighbours. We are working on plain packaging. One example of a city, a decision just taken last week in the city of Groningen, in the north of the Netherlands. The City Council decided to create smoke-free areas all over the city. Smoke-free streets, there must be dozens of smoke-free streets in Groningen within a few years. The National Prevention Agreement is in line with the common efforts in the FCTC. FCTC can be implicit and sometimes explicit inspiration for us. Yet most of all, people will be our inspiration. We want to prevent the young from taking up cigarettes. We want to help adults to quit. We want a smoke-free generation. So, let's be ambitious, as ambitious as we possibly can be in implementing the FCTC. Let's work together towards a global smoke-free generation, a global smoke-free generation – a global smoke-free generation. The sooner the better. I have one final remark to share that we are very involved in

workshops with the FCTC. I want to inform you that The Netherlands has put itself forward as a candidate for hosting the Ninth COP and the Second MOP in 2020. Thanks a lot.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much for highlighting the importance of political engagement in fulfilling our mission and sharing the initiatives of the Netherlands. Global smoke-free generation is indeed our vision and thanks for highlighting that too. I now request Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Deputy Director-General World Health Organization, India, you have the floor, Ma'am.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)
– DR SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN**

Thank you very much, Madam President. It's wonderful to be here at this High-level Segment that's discussing a really important aspect of the tobacco use and tobacco growing, and that is impact on climate change and the interaction between tobacco and climate change. I think the first thing is that in the SDG era, we need to start really thinking about all these things as interconnected. We should no longer be thinking of tobacco sitting in SDG 3 and the other determinants sitting the other SDGs. But instead we need to start thinking about SDG 3 being a docking station, perhaps, for all the SDGs, because health is very central, and anything that happens, whether it's to do with climate or environment or energy or water will impact health. Similarly, anything that improves health is likely to have a positive impact on some of the other SDGs. The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, I think, is very intimately linked with climate change. I think the Madam Minister from Ghana already mentioned that in terms of the life cycle of tobacco, right from the time that it's grown to how it then goes through a production process into cigarettes and then the disposal of the by-products –but also the effects on health as tobacco is then smoked or used in various other ways. In order to reduce the impact of tobacco on health, you have to think at what to do for each of the different parts of the life cycle of the tobacco in order to have a lasting impact. Therefore, it's important to think about people who produce tobacco, the tobacco farmers, and what alternative employment opportunities are we creating for them, which will be good for the environment.

They could switch to growing plants, which are good for the environment, which could be perhaps food producing or producing some product of value, which also gives them an income, maybe better, even higher than what they get from tobacco. At the same time, that's the only incentive that you could give to a poor farmer. Because very often the argument comes back to us and even in my own country, India, there's always the argument from the tobacco growers and the farmers saying that they would be out of livelihoods if you put an end to tobacco use. So, I think it's really, because they need to have a livelihood as well. This is very similar to the approach we take to people who work in dangerous occupations. For example, the miners who work under very difficult circumstances and face a lot of health impacts because of the exposure to dust, whether it's coal dust or other kinds of sand that they're exposed to when they're mining. If they could then, if mining for coal, for example, comes down because you have switching over to renewable sources of energy, not only does it have a positive impact on environment but it also has a positive impact on the health of the miners. So, it's a win-win situation, and I think for any sustainable solution, it has to be a win-win. If it's only having positive effects on one constituency but then having negative impacts on another constituency in society, it's unlikely to be accepted by everyone.

Now I just want to say a little bit about WHO's General Programme of Work and strategic plan for the next five years, because this time we've taken a very different approach, which is very

much linked to what I was saying. It's multisectoral actions that you have to take to have an impact on health. It's very clear that the health ministries alone cannot keep a population healthy. The health ministries come into the picture only when somebody is already unwell and is seeking care, so the best they can do is to provide good opportunities for diagnosis and treatment and for prevention of diseases through vaccination and so on. Most of the risks factors, which cause disease are outside the ambit of the health ministry. They could be things like air pollution, which again, as the Minister from Ghana mentioned, is estimated to cause 7 million deaths a year. Air pollution is impacting people in low-income countries much more than in higher income countries. In fact, our statistics show that 90% of people today in the world are breathing air which is not of the quality, which is above the minimum level of particulate matter set by the WHO, which is 10 parts per million.

Ninety per cent of the world is breathing unhealthy and some cities, especially those that are rapidly growing and urbanizing in Africa and Asia, you'll find unacceptably high levels of air pollution. This causes an impact not only on respiratory but on cardiovascular health on children's brain and cognitive development, as well as on cancer. It has very wide-ranging effects. Anything that's done to reduce air pollution would immediately have positive impacts on health, but it's completely outside the health ministries' ambit to do that. One has numerous other examples. You can talk about food and nutrition. The complete changeover that we've seen now from freshly cooked foods and more traditional diets to one of very heavily processed foods, which are high in salt, high in sugar, high in fat are causing a huge epidemic of noncommunicable diseases. Again, it's not the health ministry that regulates, or that's responsible for marketing of these products, though of course regulations can be broadened in terms of labelling and in terms of regulations and taxes on salt and on high fat products and so on.

Similarly, the water and sanitation have huge effects on health, lack of water, clean water, lack of sanitation causes most of the direct deaths today that we see in children under 5 years of age, and also causes spreading of antimicrobial resistance because of lack of the infection prevention and control facilities and health-care centres. One can immediately begin to see the links between the environment and between the different SDGs and SDG 3. In WHO at this time, in our five-year strategic plan that we call the GPW 13, we have three major goals. The first goal is to expand access to universal health coverage for at least a billion more people in the next five years. That's very much in line with the SDG goals of health for all by 2030. The second billion refers to protecting another billion people from health emergencies and outbreaks by improving the International Health Regulation implementation of those regulations and standards in different countries. The third goal, or the third big priority area, is to keep people well. It's to prevent illness, so it's more on the health promotion side and that is where the intersectoral policies and actions come into play, whether it's road safety rules to prevent road traffic injuries, whether it's providing counselling to prevent suicides or whether its reducing air pollution and tobacco use by implementation of the FCTC in countries to reduce the exposure to tobacco. This is where I see the links between tobacco, climate change and environment. I think that action in one will definitely have positive impacts on the other.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thanks, Dr Swaminathan for elaborating how various issues under the SDGs are interlinked and how SDG 3 anchors integrated action. I now request Mr Paul Desanker, Manager Adaptation Plans and Policy, UN Framework Convention for Climate Change and Secretariat, to give his inputs.

UNFCCC DIRECTOR OF ADAPTATION PROGRAMME – Mr Paul DESANKER

Thank you, Madam Moderator, distinguished excellences, colleagues from the UN System, ladies and gentlemen. I stand here before you on behalf of our Executive Secretary, Ms Patricia Espinosa, who is detained at the moment in New York at the moment after the General Assembly, talking to different Parties and various actors on how to advance the climate change. As you know, we have our COP coming up in a few months in Katowice in Poland in December. There's a lot of expectation that this COP will in fact advance our efforts in fighting climate change. The Climate Change Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, as well as the Paris Agreement that was agreed to only a few years back in 2015, is working very diligently to address climate change. Countries are implementing a wide range of actions to reduce carbon emissions, while they're also building resilience in development through a range of measures, including integrating climate change considerations in planning at all levels. Actions are being undertaken by a wide range of stakeholders, state actors, the private sector, NGOs and many, many others. We have perhaps a well-oiled engine to address all of these problems through a means of implementation, so financing, capacity-building, technology transfer, as well as a whole range of modalities to allow countries perhaps to access the support that they need to switch from one livelihood and economic activity to another.

In the land sectors, there are mechanisms to promote reforestation and reduction of emissions arising from deforestation, as well as ecosystem-based activities designed to promote the life support of ecosystems. There are new and expanded channels for financing, including through the Climate Change Convention funds, such as a Green Climate Fund and funds managed by the Global Environment Facility, as well as a wide range of bilateral and private sector sources. Addressing climate change alone is not going to solve all development problems. However, it is also true that we would not be effective at addressing development without addressing climate change. This year, we do face a very important challenge at our COP24 in Poland. We have to deliver the implementation guidelines for the Paris Agreement. This is a very critical step for us. If we do not succeed, the Paris Agreement will become ineffective. For the first time in 2015 in Paris, the international community came together and accepted one clear and undeniable fact, that responsibility for addressing climate change is collective. Each country has to play a role. We also agreed on the nationally determined nature of that purpose. Each country does get to decide how they're going to help fight climate change.

This offers a wide range of opportunities under the FCTC. The Paris Agreement reflects all of this. It gives us the tools to mobilize action through provisions on mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer and capacity-building. It also provides a basis to develop a common system to monitor progress and take action by Parties recognizing national circumstances. The Paris Agreement calls on all Parties to take action. For those countries that want to act but cannot afford to, predictability and delivery of means of implementation is a necessity. By implementing the Paris Agreement in all these aspects, we can continue moving towards a paradigm of equitable and better sharing. Countries at the moment are reviewing their national plans, the so-called Nationally Determined Contributions, or indices, so that their next one will be more ambitious in all aspects. Current indices are not enough to achieve the world

below 2 degrees Celsius, or they'll establish another Paris Agreement. Of course, their efforts to try to move this target down to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius is compared to preindustrial periods. The Paris Agreement is our way forward for addressing climate change, including and in relation to other issues, including human health and well-being. There are many opportunities, as I said, for Parties under this agreement when implementing your provisions to also synergise very well with the Climate Change Convention, and of course, find ways to achieve synergies between the two. It has been well established that an increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius would have significant impacts on a number of sectors and the SDGs, in particular food security, ecosystems, as well as employment. Land will become scarce as much of it becomes less suitable for crop production. Turning farms into agriculture for food production versus biofuel production, for instance, will help us achieve food security.

This is an opportunity perhaps for a number of countries that need to diversify away from tobacco to other crops, to perhaps consider how they can expand and achieve food security through the much-improved productivity that's possible using the resources that have been targeted towards tobacco production. I do not need to tell anyone in this room about the adverse psychological impacts of tobacco production on the environment given the huge demands on water, as well as the resulting deforestation, especially for tobacco. I personally come from Malawi, and Malawi has basically lost most of its forest due to tobacco. The economy relies heavily on tobacco. It's not an easy task to diversify away from tobacco to other sources of income. At the moment, it's about 70% of foreign income that's due to tobacco, so it's going to be a huge challenge but also an opportunity for Malawi to diversify towards more environmentally sustainable livelihoods. In conclusion, I want to communicate that under the Convention, we have been operating for 24 years. We have a large number of modalities, technical support, financing and so forth that can help countries address the problems or the difficulties that they will face as they move away from tobacco in terms of more sustainable land uses, more resilient economic activities, as well as more health-oriented programmes and so forth. We stand ready to interface with this Convention and explore ways in which our Parties can jointly achieve the objectives of the two Conventions.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you for giving us an overview of the Paris Agreement and how FCTC and COP could contribute to your next celebrations. If you will allow me, I will now pose a question to each of the invited panellists. The first question is addressed to Honourable Deputy Minister. Ma'am, in April 2010, Ghana hosted the working group on Article on 17 and 18, which drafted the policy options on the implementation of these two articles. Can you share with us how far Ghana has come in implementing alternative livelihood and environmental protection?

DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH, GHANA – H.E. Tina Gifty Naa Ayele MENSAH

Thank you very much, Madam Preeti. I think after the host, Ghana has done a lot of actions, has taken actions to control tobacco. Especially, we have an active law in Parliament that bans people for smoking in public places. Also, I think Ghana has been encouraging farmers or growers, otherwise those growing in smaller quantities to go out of it, and then do other crops in place of the tobacco growing to assess them with small funds that they can start up growing with. I think in short, Ghana, we are on average trying the public education as well, so getting

those vulnerable ones not to go in at all, and those in it, the few in it – the good thing is that we don't have a high number of people smoking in Ghana, maybe issued to culture and some of our cultural influences among other things. Those we know we do have, we are trying to control it, and get it to be under control.

Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. My next question is to Mr Paul Blokhuis. What are the main challenges in your country when it comes to tobacco control and environmental issues? Do you notice interference of the tobacco industry in this?

STATE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND SPORT, THE NETHERLANDS – Mr Paul BLOKHUIS

In my daily work, my first priority is dealing with health aspects of tobacco control. Yet the production of cigarettes has a huge negative impact on the environment. Of course, I'm aware of it. It is tremendously destructive for our planet. As for my country, we don't grow tobacco. As I heard other speakers before, I'm glad we do not because we have hardly any trees. We won't have any forest left, but those are the real problems. We don't have problems in the Netherlands like destroying the roots, deforestation or employees working in miserable conditions. We do have another problem. We do have as all other countries, we do have to deal with tons and tons of cigarette butts. It's easier, I think, to throw away a cigarette butt than a fridge or a couch. I was told only last week in Geneva more than 3 million butts were counted, in Geneva. Worldwide, it's about approximately 4.5 trillion butts all over the world. Imagine only one cigarette butt can cause damage, poison, for 8 litres of water. Dazzling and shocking figures. I'm grateful that the Secretariat of the FCTC is putting this on the agenda.

As Dr da Costa e Silva pointed out, ultimately the tobacco industry should be responsible for liability, economic costs and provision of information on the environmental impacts of their activities. This makes sense, but there are also risks and trips to this approach. For example, in my own country about three or four years ago, there was a campaign in the Netherlands, a campaign to keep cigarette butts from the beaches. This campaign was a joint effort by local governments, but also the local – also the tobacco industry took part in it and also the civil society. Sounds good so far, but what happened? The industry's contribution was, for example, to provide ashtrays, thereby ignoring the root of the problem, I think. Thereby using the environmental campaign as an image improver, as a marketing strategy to keep sales figures up. A court ruling forced the Government to end it, because it was not in line with Article 5.3 of FCTC. The court ruling made us more aware. As a result of this ruling, we have approached local communities warning them that this kind of cooperation is not in line with the Treaty.

My guess is the industry is trying these tactics elsewhere, too. How can we prevent cigarette butts ending up in the environment? For one, we have to stay focused. I think we have to make smokers aware. That sounds logical, but ultimately tobacco producers should be responsible. This means, for instance, tobacco producers should be made financially responsible for cleaning up and safely disposing of tobacco products waste. However, these programmes should be carried out by non-tobacco industry actors, I think, such as civil society. Cigarettes not only poison our environment, they primarily poison our people. Of course, we have to make smokers aware of it. However, we also have to stop the industry from their malicious activities. In this context, I want to ask for your attention on one special issue. Smokers are inhaling much more

tar, nicotine and C.O. than they think, because the tobacco industry is manipulating the filters of cigarettes. They have all minuscule ventilation holes, and there's a widely felt outrage in the Netherlands when it comes to these fake filters or cheating cigarettes, as we call them, especially because the tobacco industry is dominating the ISO committee, which is responsible for the testing method – the measurement method. I wonder how that is possible considering Article 5.3 of FCTC. Therefore, our public health institute left the committee. I'm hoping to convince colleagues in Europe and other parts of the world to stop the ISO method for testing for the contents of cigarettes. I call upon you all today, please expose the industry in your country and stop using the ISO method. We can protect our environment, and we need to protect our people.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. The next question is to Dr Soumya Swaminathan. Is there a connection between WHO FCTC, the environment and climate change? Why is a multisectoral approach at the national and international levels essential for the development of coherent policies? I know you've already elaborated on this, but we'd request you to suggest a way forward in this direction.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL, WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)
– Dr Soumya Swaminathan**

Thank you for that question. In continuation of what I was saying earlier, I think the first thing is to stop thinking about these two as separate issues, that is, actions which improve the environment and actions which could hurt or make a dent on tobacco use. I'd rather see them as having a closer effect on each other, just as Mr Blokhuis was saying, as well. You need to not only provide alternative livelihoods to the tobacco farmers but at each step of the tobacco processing, including the disposal of the butts. It has important environmental impacts. We shouldn't really argue about what is a better argument to advance tobacco control, but we should really be promoting all actions that would have that effect. We need to take account of the political and social and economic motivations. Without that, if we see it only as a health issue, it's unlikely that we are going to make much progress. Because again, as was mentioned previously, there are strong factors, especially economic factors, commercial drivers, which have an impact on why tobacco still continues to be grown and sold. Therefore, the ministries of health, rather than focusing only on their own activities, really need to become advocates for actions which need to happen in other ministries, like the ministries of agriculture, the ministries of commerce, and trade and so on, who can then formulate policies which would have an impact on reducing tobacco use. Young people nowadays are concerned not only about their own health – they do have a lot of interest in their own health and how to keep themselves healthy – but they also have a great deal of interest in the environment.

I think that's the positive. The next generation for us, I think, is the only hope, because they are taking a lot of action now to reduce environmental harm. I think involving young people and making them see the dual benefits of reducing tobacco use, both on the health of people but also on the environment. I think talking about that much more, which we have not probably done. We've talked only about the impact of tobacco on health. We do not talk about the impact of tobacco on the environment. I think some statistics like the one you mentioned, that a tobacco butt could contaminate, you know, 8 litres of groundwater. Therefore, even if you're not

a smoker, just because people are throwing tobacco butts on the ground, you're going to be at risk. I think making people more aware of that, especially young people I would think, could be one concrete step to really start talking about the environmental impacts of tobacco.

The second is that you have to address the impact on constituencies, like the tobacco farmers and so on, and others who are impacted directly by the fossil fuel industry. They need to have some other alternative income generation options available to them. There are examples, like the Beyond Coal initiative I mentioned earlier where the miners in coal, the coal miners are offered alternative employment as the country shifts to renewable energy. It means that for tobacco farmers, we need to think about alternative crops and livelihoods. Really, it's a multisectoral approach, which is recognized also with an FCTC, both Articles 17 and 18. They do talk about the viable alternatives for tobacco farmers and protection of the environment and health of persons involved in tobacco growing, so I think that again, because we have the SDGs as they are now, we do have a very good opportunity to take a multisectoral approach and expand the scope of the FCTC to really have some concrete actions in the other sectors. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you for that. My final question to Mr Paul Desanker. How can Parties maximize on the synergy with the Paris Agreement when implementing the Tobacco Convention at the national level?

UNFCCC DIRECTOR OF ADAPTATION PROGRAMME – Mr Paul DESANKER

Thank you for that. I have about four points on how countries and Parties can maximize on this synergy. One is of course through the Nationally Determined Contributions or ways in which countries declare they're going to address the Paris Agreement, either through mitigation but as well as adaptation efforts. I think it goes without saying that the emissions from agriculture in the context of tobacco, as well as the possible transition of agriculture in tobacco towards other food security needs, for instance, that could be an important contribution that countries can make and ensure that once they do this and they do the full accounting of the costs, positive and negative of all these activities. In fact, it does make economic sense to diversify away from tobacco. In terms of adaptation, I talked about the ecosystem-based adaptation efforts that work on recovering degraded environments due to tobacco. That's obviously a win-win. I'm sure that many countries would see value in going that way, and then using that as one of their commitments under the Paris Agreement in accessing support to do that. The ministries of health are also making a lot of progress in terms of developing national adaptation plans, the efforts to develop what's called H-NAPs or Health National Adaptation Plans. This is an opportunity to link in efforts that address both in this Convention and climate change in terms of committing government ministries and other stakeholders at the national level to do what's right and what's useful for them.

Fourth, adaptation requires us to think and to come up with ways that we can transform economies in the medium and the long term. Most of agriculture will not be sustainable in the long term. Changes are happening now that are making some agricultural activities very unsustainable. Most of us are aware of the changes in the growing season and how just growing maize, for instance, is actually a big challenge for many countries. So, this does offer an opportunity for many countries to actually use the resources used to produce tobacco to actually produce food and achieve food security in the long run. Lastly, the private sector also has a big role to play. Those of you that followed the happenings in New York last week, there's what's

called a Tobacco-Free Finance Pledge where a number of big financial institutions are actually pledging that they're going to go tobacco-free in terms of the investments in the future. This is one way to encourage and promote diversification away from tobacco and ensure that countries can find very economic ways to make their living and not rely on tobacco and the huge economic impacts that the huge economic contributions that tobacco has made to many economies. If we do the full accounting, it's obvious that tobacco is not as sustainable as it can be. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. I'd like to thank again all the panellists for their very interesting and enlightening presentations. It is clear from what we heard that we need to give visibility to the connection between tobacco growing, manufacturing, and environmental damage and climate change. We need to involve youth. They are our future. We need to have a multisectoral approach, be more proactive and vigilant, at the same time. We cannot continue to sacrifice our land, our trees, contaminate our waters and contribute to climate change for a product that has no benefit really. On the contrary, it kills half of its consumers. I'd like to give the floor again to the four speakers in case they would like to add something after listening to their core speakers. Anything you'd like to add? Yes, Mr Paul.

**STATE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, WELFARE AND SPORT,
THE NETHERLANDS – Mr Paul BLOKHUIS**

Yes, thank you. Just a brief remark. I think it's clear that cigarettes involve more than health issues. It's a multisectoral problem as you already mentioned. I think it's important that FCTC is aware of it. I think they're aware of it, and they're emphasizing it in all countries they work for. What I think is also very important is, it's a matter of health, it's a matter of environment, but it's also a matter of finance. Last week in New York at the United Nations meetings, we met Bronwyn King. She's working hard to develop a divestment in tobacco. That's what Mr Desanker already mentioned. Divestment in tobacco, I think that's the future. It is a way to show that you want to be responsible as a finance institute for all the inhabitants of a country, but also that you are aware of, what I want to say is – the tobacco industry is decreasing, so it's not wise to invest in it. I hope lots of financials all over the world will stop their investments in tobacco. That will harm them, I think. That's what I want to say.

THE PRESIDENT:

Yes. I think it's very important that we do keep in mind the financial implications of the declining tobacco trade, hopefully, and not only that. We also I think need to highlight how investments in tobacco control are also important. I think it will work both ways. Thank you very much. Let me thank all the four guests for accepting to be here with us today and for their very valuable contributions.

I think there is a proposal from SEAR. Myanmar would like to say something, so I invite our Coordinator from SEAR, Myanmar.

MYANMAR:

Madam President, I'm intervening on behalf of the South East Asian region. The input from the High-level Segment is highly appreciated. As practised in previous COPs, there should be a COP declaration that captures key highlights. Thus, we would like to propose that we have the Geneva Declaration before we end COP8. In order to achieve this, SEAR proposes that a small drafting group should be formed. SEAR lends here support to facilitate and coordinate the drafting group if the COP agrees. Thank you.

CONTINUATION OF ITEM 1.1

THE PRESIDENT:

We would like to take forward the deliberations and the discussions that we've had in the High-level Segment. There's no hosting country for this COP, so SEAR has come forward to coordinate a declaration, or I would say a summary, of today's deliberations. I would like to assure the panellists here, the distinguished panellists who have given us valuable time, that in all earnestness, we would like to take forward what we have learned from you today through this action. We'll discuss this after the panellists leave. Thank you so much. Dear delegates, should we get down to business now? Let's start our business now. Dear colleagues, we shall now announce the officers of the two Committees: Committee A and B. I would like to recall Rule 28.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of Parties stating that unless the Conference decides otherwise, it is the Committees themselves that will elect their respective officers. I would like to remind the delegates that in order to ensure regional representation, the committees may wish to elect one Chair and two Vice-Chairs, thereby bringing the total number of officers to six. You will recall that previous sessions of COP followed this practice, ensuring representation from all the six regions. I would like to ask the Regional Coordinators of each region to announce the candidate for Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees A and B.

Africa, you have the floor.

AFRICAN REGION:

Merci beaucoup. Madame la Présidente, la région africaine a proposé Monsieur Zotoua Ernest de la Côte d'Ivoire pour être candidat au poste de vice-président pour la Commission B. Je vous remercie.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Myanmar, you have the floor.

MYANMAR:

Professor Nuntavarn Vichit-Vadakan from Thailand will Chair the Committee B.

THE PRESIDENT:

That is for the South East Asia region ?

MYANMAR:

Yes.

THE PRESIDENT:

And this is for Committee B.

MYANMAR:

Yes. Committee B.

THE PRESIDENT:

Committee B as the President – the Chair. The region of the Americas, please you have the floor.

THE AMERICAS:

Gracias, señora presidenta. En cuanto a las candidaturas para la presente sesión de la Conferencia de las Partes, el grupo de países de la Región de las Américas tiene el agrado de presentar la candidatura del Sr. James Van Loon, de Canadá, como vicepresidente del Comité B. Muchas gracias.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. European region.

EUROPEAN UNION:

Thank you, Madam Chair. On behalf of the Euro Region, we would like to present Ms Maria Brozmanová from Slovakia as Vice-Chair for Committee B.

THE PRESIDENT:

We have now three Vice-Chairs for Committee B. Western Pacific region, you have the floor.

WESTERN PACIFIC REGION:

Thank you, Madam Chair. The Western Pacific Region has discussed the nomination for the officer from our Region. I'm very pleased to announce that our nomination for an officer of the COP is Vice Chair for Committee A will be Dr Sunkyu Lee from the Republic of Korea. On behalf of our group, we thank the Republic of Korea for their willingness to undertake this role.

THE PRESIDENT:

Now we have an issue. We have to say something. Oman.

OMAN:

We nominate Dr Ejlal AlAlawi from Bahrain for Committee A. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Thank you. Bahrain. The head of the Secretariat has a solution. I give the floor to her.

HEAD OF THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT:

Thank you, Ms. Chairm. I was just suggesting that one of the three Co-Chairs of Committee B becomes a Chair of Committee A. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

9. CREDENTIALS OF PARTICIPANTS (ITEM 1.2)

I would again request that the regions kindly consult amongst yourselves, and please come up with a consensus. Thank you. In the meantime, let us proceed with the agenda. I've been informed that for the remaining meetings this week, the regions would like to have a seating arranged in regional groups to facilitate regional coordination as was the practice in the previous sessions. I request the Convention Secretariat to do the needful. This will be put in place beginning tomorrow morning. I hope that's agreeable. Thank you for your attention on this particular proposal. We can now go to next Agenda Item 1.2, Credentials of the Participants, which is a report on the credentials of the participants. I'd like you to recall that in accordance with Rule 19 of the Rules of Procedure, the Bureau shall examine the credentials of the Parties participating in the session. It is proposed that the Bureau shall report in writing at a later meeting of the Plenary, tentatively on Wednesday morning. In accordance with Rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, delegations shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the session, pending decision by the Conference to accept their credentials. May I remind delegations who have not yet submitted their formal credentials to please submit by tomorrow, Tuesday morning to the Registration Desk. Is this proposal acceptable? Particularly, the timing for the report of the credentials. Is it acceptable? If there's anything you'd like to say? Anybody? I am giving the floor to the Convention Secretariat.

THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT:

Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. May I just recall to the Parties the Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure, which says, and here I quote: the credentials and representatives, as well as the names of alternates and advisers shall be submitted to the Secretariat, if possible, no later than 24 hours after the opening of the session. Taking this into consideration, the Parties still have until tomorrow morning to submit their credentials. This would allow for the Bureau to examine those credentials as for tomorrow evening session and then report back to the Conference of the Parties on this issue.

10. APPLICATION FOR OBSERVER STATUS (ITEM 2)**THE PRESIDENT:**

I see no objection to this. We will proceed as decided. Thank you. Now going to Agenda Item number 2, which is Applications for the Status of Observers to the COP. This is the document FCTC/COP/8/3. I hope you had a look at it. We shall review the new applications received by the Secretariat and contained in the document I quoted earlier that is COP/8/3. The COP is invited to note this report and decide whether the pending application and the new applications for the Observer Status should be granted or rejected. The COP is also invited to review an indicative list of criteria for denying applications of Observer Status. If you agree, I'd like to start with the three applications received by the Secretariat for which the Bureau recommends the COP to grant Observer Status. These three are the IGO African Capacity Building, next is the NGO Tobacco Free Portfolios and the third is the NGO Cancer Research UK. Is this Conference willing to endorse the recommendations contained in the documents in front of us regarding granting the Observer Status to these three applying organizations? Any inputs? Any objections? If not, then can we agree that it is so decided. I get the chance to bang this. Thank you. Observer Status is granted to African Capacity Building, Tobacco Free Portfolios and Cancer Research UK.

The Secretariat will make necessary arrangements for the three organizations that have been granted Observer Status to be seated with Observers to the COP as of tomorrow morning. We shall now continue with the application of the East African Community, for which Conference of Parties deferred its concentration until this session due to lack of a governing body decision on this application. The reference document is COP/8/3. The Convention Secretariat contacted the EAC and did not receive any new update on its governing body decision. In this regard, and in its recommendations to the COP, the Bureau suggests that the COP reject the application of EAC. Is the COP willing to reject EACs application? I see no objection. It is so decided. Observer Status is therefore rejected to the East African Community.

If somebody requests the floor, then the floor is open for discussions. Allow me to continue with the applications of seven organizations applying in accordance with Rule 30.1 and 31.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, namely, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. Number two, Equal Right to Life. Number three, Indo-OIC Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Next, International Network of Nicotine Consumer Organizations. Next, International Tax Stamp Association. Next, Makerere University School of Public Health Centre for Tobacco Control in Africa. Next, New World Hope organization. The Bureau reviewed these applications and concluded that they justified rejection, and that at least one of the criterion have a national or subnational geographical scope or their main activities are mainly conducted at all national or subnational levels. Number two, have a conflict of interest or are tied to the tobacco industry or tobacco fringe groups. Three, have no tobacco control activities. Four, are neither an IGO nor NGO, as defined in the RoP. In the light of information provided by the Bureau in document COP/8/3, the Conference may consider rejecting Observer Status to the COP for the seven organizations mentioned earlier. Is this Conference willing to endorse the recommendations contained in the document in front of us regarding the seven application organizations? I see no objection. It is so decided. This concludes our concentration of Agenda Item number 2.

Have we reached a consensus on officers for the two Committees? If yes, can somebody raise the flag please? Okay, I request our Secretariat to supplement some additional information. The floor is yours.

11. GLOBAL PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE WHO FCTC, FOLLOWED BY A GENERAL DEBATE (ITEM 5)

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Now we come to Agenda Item number 5, Global Progress in Implementation of WHO FCTC followed by a general debate. I request Dr da Costa e Silva to take the floor.

HEAD OF THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT

Thank you very much. This presentation refers to the document FCTC COP/8/4. The COP is invited to note the report on the initial results from the analysis of data received in the 2018 reporting period and to provide further guidance. Based on the reports received from the Parties in the 2018 reporting cycle, there continues to be progress in implementation of the Convention. However, implementation remains uneven with rates ranging from 13% to 88%. The 2018 Global Progress Report informs several stakeholders of the Treaty's progress and supports priorities for increasing resources to continuous acceleration of the Convention. For the first time, since the entry into force of the Convention, we have at least one formal report from all Parties to the Treaty. For the 2018 reporting cycle, 142 out of 181 Parties – that means 78% formally submitted their reports. The highest reported implemented Articles with an average implementation of 65% or more are seen here with the top three being Article 8 Protection from Exposure of Tobacco Smoke, Article 11 Packaging and Labelling of Tobacco Products, Article 12 Education, Communication, Training and Public Awareness and Article 16 Sales to and by Minors. Smoke-free environments were reported by over 90% of the Parties fully or partially protecting their citizens from exposure to second-hand smoke. Several Parties are going beyond and extending smoking bans to outdoor areas, such as parks, beaches, playgrounds or outdoor dining areas. Many Parties now include new and emerging tobacco products in their smoke-free legislation. Additionally, several Parties banned smoking in cars when transporting minors.

Health warnings are now required in 90% of Parties. A domino effect was noted with the adoption of plain packaging in Australia, the first one. France, Ireland, UK, Hungary and many others. Eighty-six per cent of Parties reported requiring pictorial warning and 60% of Parties require warnings to be at least 50% of the principal area of tobacco packs. Timor-Leste is a world leader among Parties, which has not yet adopted plain packaging, with health warnings covering 92.5% or 85% front and 100% back of the two main sides of tobacco packages. Ninety per cent of Parties reported having implemented educational and public awareness campaigns. Here, the example from Tonga: World No Tobacco Day, organized earlier by WHO, remains powerful, and the most reported education campaign, an awareness-raising campaign and the great opportunity for Parties to promote implementation of the Convention. Seventy-two per cent of Parties reported having implemented comprehensive bans on TAPS. Eighty-five per cent prohibit sales to minors, with more Parties increasing the minimum age to purchase tobacco products with Sri Lanka applying the minimum age for purchase at 24, Article 16. Ninety per cent of all Parties indicated having implemented some tax in their price policy, that means Article 6. Two-thirds have comprehensive multisectoral strategies, plans and programmes. The same proportion reported the establishment of a tobacco control unit. However, there are several Articles we selected with 65% implementation. Several Parties have

not yet implemented the time bound requirements within Article 8, 11 and 13, also. Too many Parties still need to use and implement measures, such as smoking bans and public transport, requirements for health and pictorial warnings to cover at least 50% of the tobacco packaging. Only 25% of Parties declared, including Internet advertising in their national ban on TAPS.

Greater effort and resources should be dedicated to address high-risk special groups, such as ethnic minorities, those in lower socioeconomic groups and gender-specific focus. For example, 30% of Parties reported having awareness campaigns dedicated to certain ethnic groups. A little over a quarter of tobacco growing Parties reported promoting viable sustainable alternatives for tobacco growers. Approximately a third of the tobacco growing Parties reported having implemented measures to protect the health of the people and/or the environment in tobacco growing and manufacturing. These are disappointing figures, and we have the responsibility and the duty to do much more. Despite significant progress, Parties reported warning gaps and challenges. Two thirds of reporting Parties reported lack of financial resources as a challenge and approximately one third mention insufficient human resources capacity. Several Parties mentioned a need for a specific support for technical issues, including taxation, tobacco product content, illicit trade or liability. For example, 7% of Parties have taken action to recover tobacco-related costs – only 7%. Insufficient political commitment and intersectoral coordination was also reported as an impediment to the implementation of the Convention. Increasing evidence shows the growing market of ENDS, electronic nicotine delivery systems, electronic non-nicotine delivery systems and other non-nicotine products. This presented a significant challenge for regulators and enforcers of current laws and regulations. A large number of Parties reported they had no provisions in place concerning those new projects in their existing legislation.

The interference of the tobacco industry remains a major issue for Parties, even though more than two thirds of Parties reported having adopted some measures to prevent tobacco industry interference. Many from all income levels noted that interference by the tobacco industry and its allies was the most common challenge they faced. Parties report that the tobacco industry specifically targeted non-health sectors. There is a need to achieve full policy coherence at the national level to ensure that implementation of the WHO FCTC level is multisectoral and integral to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Opportunities to integrate WHO FCTC implementation with other problems, such as NCDs, TB and HIV/AIDS should be pursued. The implementation of the Convention should be made the business of all sectors and national agencies. Two thirds of Parties report that receiving assistance from other Parties, while 38% reported providing assistance to other Parties. Some Parties both received and provided support. The specific needs included transfer of skills and technology, increasing demand observed in the areas of litigation, taxation, legislation and policy development, technical support related to the protocol and implementation of Article 5.3. As mandated by COP, the Convention Secretariat has been actively facilitating South–South and Triangular cooperation.

In addition to Party support, Parties reported receiving assistance from the Convention's network of observers to COP. Both IGOs and NGOs work in coordination with the Secretariat. More than 50 Parties engaged directly with and received assistance from the Convention Secretariat through a number of avenues, for example, the FCTC 2030 project; the needs assessment conducted in collaboration with WHO, UNDP and other UN partners; the Convention Secretariat established Knowledge Hubs; the information from observatories on the strategies of the tobacco industry to guide their policy decision. The Convention Secretariat

remains committed to provide support of Parties and continues to facilitate information and skill exchanges through all the means available. Despite all efforts, all the progress achieved by Parties – we need to remain vigilant. While the global smoking prevalence dropped from 24% in 2005 to 19% in 2017, the tobacco industry is still very much a threat to the Convention success. In order to progress significantly, we, the Parties, the Convention Secretariat, and our national and international partners have to collaborate with all the tools available. Parties have the power, as well as the duty, to make full implementation of the FCTC the business of everyone for everyone. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Vera. Colleagues, now the floor is open for discussions. Allow me to give the floor to our distinguished delegates from Uganda. After Uganda, I would request for regional statements. Already, we have a request from Georgia. There is SEARO also asking for making a regional statement. Apart from this, there are country statements from Brazil, New Zealand, Japan, Philippines, Australia, China, Sri Lanka, Guatemala, Ghana, Georgia again, Iran, India, Mozambique, Thailand, Costa Rica, Iraq, Canada, Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Nigeria, Burundi and we'll take it as it goes. I begin with requesting Uganda to take the floor, and then we go on to the regional statements.

THE PRESIDENT:

Uganda, please.

UGANDA:

Thank you, Madam. I would like to give a statement in memory of the late Dr Sheila Ndyanabangi, who was the Former Head of Delegation from Uganda. After which, we'll have a one-minute video in her memory. A staunch tobacco control, Uganda Minister of Health official who lost to cancer. The painful news came on September 8th, 2018, one month short of the COP. This was a big loss for the continent, the international tobacco control community and public health advocates from all over the world. She was a woman of faith, a mother, a sister, a friend to all. She was a colossus, progressive, persuasive, dependable, bold, articulate, tireless and fierce when it came to fighting the tobacco industry interference. Dr Sheila was a constant presence at the COP and other meetings of subsidiary bodies of the COP. Those who have not met her but attended the COPs would remember at least one incidence of wild applause after a powerful intervention by a woman from Africa. She was a constant voice of reason that would relentlessly bring back people's focus. She was a conscientious force that would remind us of the bigger picture and the duty to fight and protect the billions of lives that needed to be saved. Just a few months ago in March 2018, she was speaking like a warrior with a commanding voice against tobacco industry interference at the Plenary of the 17th World Conference on Tobacco or Health in Cape Town. To the vast majority of tobacco control advocates in Africa, she was a mentor, a mother and a friend. In the past COPs, Africa has been known to the objectives of the FCTC, especially in terms of strong positions to countering tobacco industry interference. The best way to remember her is to double efforts in championing what she stood for.

THE PRESIDENT:

Can we please have the film?

[*Film*]

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Thank you, Uganda. We take inspiration from Dr Sheila's work. Now, let's come to the country statements. Georgia on behalf of European Region.

GEORGIA:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I was speaking on behalf of the 51 Parties in the European Region, and I would like to thank the Secretariat and current Bureau members for the work during this intersessional period. Please accept our appreciation for the work on Global Progress Report in implementation of the WHO FCTC. It reflects the progress achieved by Parties over the last two years. Without prejudice to the discussions later in the week regarding transparency of delegations to the COP, the Parties of the Euro Region take positive note of the work by the Convention Secretariat to promote the principles of Article 5.3. We call for stronger cross-sectional action at the global, regional and country level to protect tobacco control policies from the vested interests of the tobacco industry. We welcome the sharing of knowledge and expertise including through the Knowledge Hubs and the observatories and the targeted support to the Parties that are facing important challenges in implementing the FCTC, especially regarding Article 5.3. The European Region also welcomes the Party that joins the Framework Convention, Mozambique, since COP7.

Our Region takes this opportunity also to call on observer countries present at this COP and urges them to become Party to the Convention for maximizing the common effort in tobacco control. The European Region showcased its commitment to full implementation of the WHO FCTC by adopting the roadmap of actions to strengthen implementation of the WHO FCTC and the European Region 2015/2055. The Progress Report on the roadmap was submitted to the 68th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe in 2018. The progress has been made across the Region. Since then, six countries fully aligned their national tobacco control legislation with the WHO FCTC in 2016 and 2017, despite the opposition of the tobacco industry. In several other countries, tobacco control has been strengthened with new policies and better enforcement and compliance. More needs to be done, however, especially in raising tobacco taxes, implementing smoke-free policies, supporting smoking cessation, conducting anti-tobacco campaigns and applying complete TAPS ban.

I would like to highlight some observations linked to the Global Progress Report. We welcome great progress made on some Articles of the Convention, however, implementation in some areas is far behind and this needs to be addressed appropriately. We believe that intersectoral collaboration and enhanced policy coherence are key to achieving results. In order to effectively respond to the global burden of NCDs and meet SDG targets 3.4 by 2030, a broad range of sectors and policy areas should be involved in the policy shaping and implementation. FCTC can be seen as one of the most effective global tools in building the bridges in order to effectively tackle the NCD epidemics. It was well demonstrated at the high-level meeting on NCD during the UNGA. We call on Parties to embed the FCTC into their national plans for the

SDG implementation and to ensure a whole-of-government approach to FCTC implementation. In this period, we would like to thank the Secretariat for including a High-level Segment with a specific theme to this COP. We are looking forward to this new part of the programme. This type of discussion is necessary in order to highlight the role of tobacco control in advancing other areas of SDGs and to raise awareness about negative impact of tobacco production on climate change. We believe that it will also contribute to get more political attention.

A large number of Parties are concerned about the increasing market introduction of novel tobacco products. We find it crucial to monitor and assess these products. They're used especially by young people and non-smokers and to develop and implement appropriate regulatory measures. The EU has put forward a draft decision on the topic highlighting that FCTC provisions apply to these novel tobacco products and encouraging Parties to put in place the appropriate regulatory frameworks. We view such an approach favourably and hope that it will receive support across the regions. We are pleased to see a significant improvement in strengthening the collaboration between the FCTC and the WHO Secretariats since last COP and encourage both to continue better coordination. We acknowledge that this is a pillar for advancing implementation of the FCTC and the SDG Agenda and prerequisite to provide more effective assistance to the Parties. We are pleased that the first meeting of the Parties of the Protocol on Illicit Trade will be held after this COP and congratulate all Parties that have ratified the Protocol, making its entry into force possible. This is a historic moment for the future of the FCTC. In order to maximize its effect, we call on more Parties in all regions, including our own, to work towards succession to the protocol as soon as possible. From a governance perspective, we urge the FCTC Secretariat to adhere to the Rules of Procedure when it comes to submitting the relevant documents to the COP in advance of its sessions. Having not had all documents published 60 days before COP8 has created many difficulties for many Member States in our Region to well prepare for our Conference. Finally, on behalf of the European Region, I would like to thank the FCTC Secretariat for its hard work in preparing for this Eighth Conference of the Parties. We look forward to working with all the Parties in order to make this COP a success. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT

Thank you. So, the regional statements, the time limit is five minutes. For the country statements its three minutes. I now request Uruguay to make a regional statement on behalf of the Americas.

URUGUAY

Gracias Sra. Presidenta,

La región de las Américas agradece al Secretariado del Convenio Marco para el Control del Tabaco (CMCTC) por la publicación del informe titulado "Progresos mundiales en la aplicación del Convenio".

En primer lugar, la región quisiera destacar las iniciativas promovidas por las Partes, así como también la encomiable labor realizada por el Secretariado, bajo la conducción de la Dra. Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva. Esto nos ha permitido lograr significativos avances desde el año 2016. Dada la estrecha relación del Convenio con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, incluyendo el Objetivo 3, Meta 3.a y el Objetivo 17, Meta 17.18, nos complace tomar conocimiento de los datos que nos han proporcionado y que muestran que estos avances aportarán un mayor grado de bienestar para nuestros pueblos.

Específicamente, los países de las Américas quisieran subrayar aquellos avances vinculados a la aplicación de políticas impositivas, que tienen una repercusión directa sobre la demanda de productos de tabaco, la prohibición del consumo en los espacios públicos, la mayor cantidad de advertencias e información disponible en los productos de tabaco, así como la implementación de programas educativos y públicos que tienen como objetivo advertir a la población acerca de los efectos nocivos del tabaco.

En relación a la implementación de los distintos artículos del Convenio, la región de las Américas toma nota de las mejoras que se han producido en lo que respecta a los artículos 8 (Protección contra la exposición del humo del tabaco) y artículo 11 (Empaquetado y etiquetado de los productos de tabaco).

Valoramos muy especialmente los esfuerzos de aquellos países que han establecido nuevos mecanismos destinados a combatir el consumo de tabaco, así como también la creación de planes de acción específicos, orientados a atender más rápida y efectivamente las necesidades de la población.

Muchos de los resultados alentadores que se han producido en estos dos años se han obtenido dentro de nuestra región y eso nos estimula a seguir trabajando para fortalecer la coordinación intrarregional y los canales de cooperación y diálogo que optimicen la implementación del CMCT en nuestro continente.

En esa línea, la región de las Américas otorga particular atención a la asistencia y cooperación internacional. Ella ha tenido un rol sumamente relevante en el caso de litigios y desafíos legales, diseño y aplicación de políticas impositivas, desarrollo legislativo y de nuevos programas. En este contexto, además de la cooperación tradicional, que sigue siendo vital para la implementación del CMCT, celebramos la cooperación ofrecida en las modalidades sur- sur y triangular y estamos abiertos para evaluar todas las opciones que permitan multiplicar las iniciativas de ese tipo.

Sin embargo, también queremos expresar nuestra preocupación por prevalencia de fumadores, la cual no ha sufrido modificaciones significativas desde la COP anterior. En particular, nos inquieta el consumo de tabaco por parte de los jóvenes y el incremento en la utilización de nuevos dispositivos. En ese sentido consideramos necesario que tanto la Secretaría como las partes redoblen esfuerzos para supervisar y monitorear el uso de estos productos así como también actualizar y unificar los instrumentos y parámetros de medición sobre el uso de los mismos.

La región de las Américas urge al Secretariado y a las Partes a tomar las acciones necesarias para mejorar la puesta en práctica de medidas para la implementación del Artículo 13 (Publicidad, Promoción y Patrocinio del Tabaco).

Para ello, los desafíos que las Partes han identificado como más graves deben ser atendidos con premura.

La región de las Américas observa también con preocupación que la interferencia de la industria tabacalera sigue siendo el mayor obstáculo a la hora de implementar las obligaciones derivadas del CMCT. Tanto el Secretariado como las Partes deben delinear estrategias eficaces y adecuadas para neutralizar o reducir esta interferencia al mínimo, priorizando la salud pública

de nuestras poblaciones, de conformidad a las disposiciones del artículo 5.3 del Convenio Marco y sus directrices, redoblando de esa manera los esfuerzos para desarrollar medios de vida alternativos para los cultivadores de tabaco por medio de enfoques participativos que incluyan a todos los entes gubernamentales relevantes.

De igual modo, y ante otros obstáculos identificados por las Partes, como lo son la falta de personal capacitado, de coordinación interinstitucional y de presupuesto, será necesario trabajar conjuntamente para que la cooperación técnica actualmente existente pueda fortalecerse y responder a estos desafíos. Los Centros de Intercambio de Conocimiento pueden contribuir en este sentido. En lo que respecta a la disponibilidad de fondos, la financiación alternativa que pueda obtener el Secretariado será crucial para la implementación del CMCT.

Por eso, alentamos al Secretariado a aumentar las acciones tendientes a atraer a un mayor número de donantes, cuyos fondos serán sumamente apreciados para fortalecer las capacidades nacionales de las Partes, especialmente en el caso de los países en desarrollo, y crear nuevas sinergias para desarrollar políticas y aplicar medidas destinadas a instrumentar plenamente el CMCT.

Muchas gracias.

THE PRESIDENT

Thank you for that. Now, Sri Lanka on behalf of SEARO regional statement.

SRI LANKA

Thank you, Chair. Ladies and gentlemen. The countries of the South-East Asia Region are delighted to join the deliberations at this milestone COP in the evaluation of the Treaty. As you aware, the South-East Asian Region is home to one fourth the world's population. Between 20% of the world's smokers and over 80% of smokeless tobacco users live in this Region. Since the last COP, Parties in their region have undertaken several steps to strengthen the implementation of the FCTC and possess many prospectuses to offer. All Parties now have comprehensive tobacco control legislations and national strategic plans aligned with the WHO FCTC. The Region has made remarkable progress, particularly in implementing FCTC Articles 8, 11 and 12. The Region is proud that two of the countries, Timor-Leste and Nepal, have the world's largest graphic warning. Sri Lanka and Thailand are moving forward in introducing plain packaging. Bhutan continues to be the only country in the world to have banned cultivation, manufacture and sales of tobacco. Half of the countries in the Region have banned ENDS and others have taken steps to restrict the use. Sri Lanka and India are among the first 40 countries to have exceeded to the Protocol on Illicit Trade. Ladies and gentlemen, let us reiterate our commitment to creating a better future for next generations through accelerated implementation of FCTC. Thank you, Chair.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much. Anymore regional statements, please? Mauritius. Is it regional statement?

MAURITIUS:

Thank you, Chair. Mauritius is actually making the statement on behalf of the African Region. I wish to inform you, Members, that the African Region would like to commend the Convention

Secretariat for the comprehensive report on the global progress in the implementation of the WHO FCTC. The African Region had made great progress in the implementation of the WHO FCTC. To date, 44 Member States of the African Region are Parties to the Convention. The latest Party in the Region is Mozambique, to which we wish to extend our appreciation. Progress has been made in terms of adoption of legislation, regulation and formulation of policies and plans to implement the WHO FCTC. There is improvement as well in tax and price policies for tobacco control including adoption of subregional policies on tobacco taxation in the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, and the Western African Monetary Union, WAMU. Mauritius may be proudly considered as one of the regional champions in Africa in matter of implementation of the WHO FCTC and for our unflinching support and commitment towards the Convention.

The African Region contributed significantly to the entry into force of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products and requests all the efforts to commence implementation of the Protocol and mobilize additional Parties in our Region. However, the African Region continues to face very detrimental tobacco industry interference. The industry's slowing down policy formulation and implementation using its tactics. This has highlighted the momentum, which has been viewed over years. The African Region Chair actually calls upon the international community, the Convention Secretariat and partners to double efforts to accelerate the implementation of the WHO FCTC in the African Region and globally in order to fight this scourge of the tobacco epidemic around the world, and would like to recommend, that is, the African Region recognizes the accompanying need to for more support for Parties to help them meet the obligations and the WHO FCTC. There is also need for COP8 to recognize the instrumental role played and the relentless efforts made by WHO and other Parties at regional and country level to support the WHO FCTC implementation, actually. There is also need for exposing and countering tobacco industry interference at all levels with the effective and efficient implementation of Article 5.3 and its Guidelines. That should be all for my part. Thank you Chair. Thank you for your attention.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much. Any other regional statements? We begin with the country statements now. We begin, let me read out the sequencing of the country statements as further requests received by us. It will be Brazil, New Zealand, Japan, Philippines, Australia, China, Sri Lanka, Guatemala, Ghana, Georgia, Iran, India, Mozambique, Thailand, Costa Rica, Iraq, Canada, Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Nigeria, Burundi, Algeria, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Uruguay, Egypt and Benin. We begin with Brazil.

BRAZIL:

Thank you, Madam President. Brazil thanks Dr Vera da Costa e Silva for her leadership in preparing the Conference. We are also grateful to the Secretariat of the WHO, the working groups and the expert groups for their work. The 2018 Global Progress Report on the implementation of FCTC shows yet again that this Convention is a milestone in public health history. It has consolidated the vision that its goals represent and depend on a shared responsibility of all government sectors. Over the past 13 years, the Convention has contributed to identify the tactics of the tobacco industry to undermine tobacco control measures. As shown by the Global Report, however, important challenges remain, such as the interference of the tobacco industry and the lack of implementation of Article 17 and 18. Article 17 and 18, being

crucial provisions to safeguard the livelihood of tobacco farmers from the impact of reduced tobacco demand, can also play, can also help protect tobacco control measures from industry interference in line with Article 5.3. Brazil is proud to be the first country to implement an observatory on tobacco industry strategies hosted by the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, a governmental institution with a solid background in research and in training public health professionals. Brazil is also proud to report a major victory for public health. After a five-year litigation from the tobacco industry, the Federal Supreme Court has decided to uphold the regulatory measure that banned flavoured additives in tobacco controls as presented by the Attorney General this morning. National Health Surveillance Systems are essential to implement the FCTCs Article 20. By monitoring the impact of FCTC on smoking prevalence in all tobacco-related disease and by providing reliable data to better determine our priorities, surveillance systems can play a very crucial role. Between 2011 and 2017, smoking prevalence decreased significantly in Brazil, down from 13.4% to 10.1%.

Higher taxation and prices adopted by the Ministry of Finance since 2012 played a key role. On the other hand, the Brazilian National Cancer Institute and WHO have estimated a significant increase in consumption of cigarettes from illegal markets among remaining smokers in the same period. Illegal trade of tobacco products can undermine the expected benefits that stem from tobacco taxation and price-related measures. This stresses the urgency of all FCTC Parties to join the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products. In spite of important progress, the global health and economic burden of tobacco use remains enormous. According to WHO, smoking kills almost 7 million people every year. It costs us all around 1.43 trillion in health-care expenditures and productivity losses. In Brazil, tobacco-related diseases cost nearly 11 billion per year. These alarming numbers underline how incompatible tobacco consumption is with regards to the principles set forth by FCTC and by the 2030 Agenda. Brazil therefore welcomes the FCTC Medium-term Strategic Framework, which will accelerate the reduction of smoking prevalence and of tobacco-related disease. This will represent a robust contribution to Agenda 2030. At each Conference of the Parties, we gather to celebrate the successes of our joint efforts to strengthen and consolidate our Convention. It serves also to rejuvenate our commitment to moving forward on controlling tobacco use, ensuring healthier lives and promoting well-being for all at, all ages. Thank you, Ms. President.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Brazil. I just want to remind all the delegates here that we have a traffic light here, I hope you can see it. That gives you indication of the time that is left. It is three minutes for the country statements, so kindly help us to manage time by sticking to the allotted time. I now request New Zealand to take the floor.

NEW ZEALAND:

Thank you, Madam President. New Zealand has made great progress in reducing the harm caused by tobacco by implementing a comprehensive Tobacco Control Programme, consistent with the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Smoking is still a major factor in health and inequalities experienced amongst our population, with smoking rates amongst Maori, our indigenous population, nearly three times that of the general population. Tobacco has had a particularly devastating impact on Maori. New Zealand is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and our country is currently looking at how the Goals can be applied within the New Zealand context. Our country has made great strides in implementing the Framework Convention. This is evidenced most recently by the introduction of standardized packaging from March this year. This has been a long time in coming but is a real victory for

public health. As a result of tobacco control interventions, New Zealand's daily smoking prevalence has fallen from 13.8% in 2017 down from 18.3% in 2007. This decline in smoking prevalence has been seen in all ethnic groups across all deprivation groups, among both genders and most ages. However, the drop in smoking prevalence has not been equal for all groups. Maori women, in particular, have a smoking rate of 35.5% compared to 8% for non-indigenous women. Smoking rates are also higher amongst young adults and lower socioeconomic populations. These communities bear the disproportionate burden of smoking-related death and disease. New Zealand has a goal to be smoke-free by 2025.

However, achieving this goal will be challenging, particularly for indigenous New Zealanders. One approach is to improve our Stop Smoking Services. Stop Smoking Services need to better support smokers to quit by providing holistic support to individuals and their families and helping them to work through the complex problems of which smoking is just one factor. Secondly, we are looking to introduce risk proportionate regulations for vaping products to provide smokers with a significantly less harmful alternative. These regulations will also address product safety, and we of course do not want non-smokers, particularly young people, to use these products. Thirdly, our country is evaluating the impact of our current series of excise increases on tobacco, particularly on those groups with the highest rates of smoking. Annual 10% increases have taken place since 2010 with a further two increases set for 2019 and 2020. Since 2010, tobacco consumption has reduced by over 35% and is still falling. Finally, our country has developed a strong Tobacco Control Programme in an effort to achieve a smoke-free 2025. There is still, of course, much to do. The inclusion of the target to strengthen implementation of the Framework Convention and the Sustainable Development Goals provides further impetus to address the inequalities in smoking rights of our most vulnerable New Zealanders. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much and thank you for sticking to the time allotted. Next is Japan.

JAPAN:

Thank you, Madam President, distinguished delegates. First of all, I wish to congratulate you, Madam President, in assuming the Presidency of COP8 at this important Conference. My delegation would also like to thank the Government of Switzerland for hosting this very important meeting. We consider it important that the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products entered into force on September 25th. It is expected that this will accelerate the elimination of illicit trade in tobacco products and promote the extradition of illicit traders, especially in developing countries. As we mentioned on the occasion of COP7 in September 2015, Japan established its basic design for peace and health as a guideline for the field of health and Japan's development cooperation charter. We have been promoting this guideline in our implementation of the SDGs. Based on this guideline, Japan prioritized the achievement of universal health coverage, as well as a seamless provision of basic health services aimed at addressing various lifelong health-related challenges, including noncommunicable diseases. To this end, Japan has been promoting preventive interventions, including prohibition of smoking in order to decrease the burden of disease. Japan could organize the UHC Forum 2017 last December together with the World Health Organization. In order to achieve the vision of SDGs which aim to realize a society where no one is left behind, this Conference made recommendations for building a strong platform to promote UHC. Japan has also been

providing assistance to other countries and organizations in their efforts to achieve UHC. Madam President, this year, after heated debates, Japan devised the Health Promotion Act to effectively reduce exposure to tobacco smoke. In closing, I would like to reiterate that Japan will strive to actively and continuously contribute to the global implementation of the FCTC. I thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. I'd also like to clarify that Switzerland is not hosting this COP. Actually, we're doing it ourselves. The Convention Secretariat is hosting, and we all paid for it. Next in line to speak is Philippines. You have the floor.

THE PHILIPPINES:

Good afternoon and thank you, Madam Chair. In 2015, at the United National General Assembly, Member States agreed that the Sustainable Development Goals should rely on people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership, a multisectoral whole of government and whole of society approach to transform our world and leave no one behind. In developing our tobacco control policy, therefore, the Philippines has demonstrated the necessity of all sectors coming together towards a transformative agenda. We congratulate the FCTC Secretariat, under the leadership of Dr Vera, for successfully integrating the implementation of the FCTC into the framework of the 2030 Agenda, specifically in 3.A and for advocating for Parties to utilize the principles of the Convention in financing for development strategies. For the Philippines, the Convention has helped us to strengthen and to expand nationwide. The policy on smoke-free environments and public and enclosed spaces with Executive Order no. 26. This Executive Order, among other implementation policies, demonstrates a strong commitment to the political declaration on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases agreed to just a week ago at the 73rd UN General Assembly.

The Convention also helped our Government raise revenue for health through the enactment of "sin tax" reform law, which set in place an incremental increase towards a unitary tax on cigarettes. Under this scheme, incremental revenue collected from tobacco and alcohol are earmarked towards programmes of the Department of Health in full alignment to the Philippines long-term development plan ambition in 2040. Bills that aim to promote further substantial increases on tobacco taxes and currently filed in the Senate, where in revenue collected, would be directed to support Philippine efforts towards SDG 13.8 or universal health coverage. The report of the expert group on the progress of the FCTC implementation is well noted. The Philippines participated in several South-South and Triangular Cooperation programs on Article 6, Article 5.2, Article 17 and Article 18. The Needs Assessment Mission to the Philippines helped identify gaps in areas of policy and implementation that our Government can address. The Secretariat has also helped facilitate the multisectoral consultancy process to formulate the Second Philippine National Tobacco Control Strategy, 2017 to 2022. The theme protecting present and future generations guides this COP.

Indeed, we are concerned about the impact on the use of emerging technologies and innovations from the tobacco industry. We hear terms such as less harmful and less toxic and safer alternatives ascribed to these innovations. To enable Member States to better comprehend what is meant by these terms, the Philippines asks the Secretariat to work with experts on providing an evidence-based definition for harm reduction in the context of tobacco control, so that all sectors can discuss tobacco policies with the common understanding from which national authorities can develop a holistic framework for obtaining our shared objectives in public health

and national development. Last week in New York, we decided that it is time to deliver and accelerate our response to NCDs. The Philippines delegation's participation at this COP will demonstrate our commitment to that promise. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Australia, you have the floor.

AUSTRALIA:

Thank you, Madam President, Head of Secretariat and distinguished colleagues. Australia is encouraged by the progress made in FCTC implementation globally over the past two years. Like others, we are striving to better protect our population from the devastating consequences of tobacco use. The Secretariat's report draws attention to some of our recent achievements, including ongoing annual excise increases resulting in some of the highest cigarette prices in the world, and increased efforts to tackle illicit tobacco now led by a dedicated multi-agency task force. We are proud that Australia's smoking rates are at unprecedented lows. Nonetheless, we have work to do as our experience shows the lower you go, the harder it gets. As smoking prevalence in Australia continues to decline, we are working to ensure that our tobacco control measures are adapted and targeted towards smaller, distinguishable population groups. In particular, we are intensifying efforts to reduce smoking among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, where rates remain unacceptably high. Madam President, Australia will continue to vigorously defend the measures taken from the tobacco industry interference and dispute. On this point, I note Australia's resounding victory in the disputes in the World Trade Organization regarding our plain packaging legislation. I want to ensure you that our government remains firmly committed to defending public health and to taking all necessary means in international trade and investment law to do so. We are delighted to see a growing number of countries adopt tobacco plain packaging and build on the lessons we've learned, bolstered by the legal successes we've had. We're proud to be the home of the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Legal Challenges at the McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer and to support the service this hub provides to many countries in our Region and beyond in their ongoing policy efforts. The ability for public health and law to work for public good is critical to our efforts.

Madam President, it is sobering to note the preliminary indication that only 13% of FCTC Parties are on track to achieve the global NCD 2025 tobacco use reduction target. It cannot protect public health and deliver on the ambitious vision of the SDGs unless we work together and learn from one another. That is why Australia is proudly supporting the FCTC 2030 project, particularly to assist our regional colleagues in the Pacific in their robust efforts to protect public health from the harms of tobacco use and the intrusions of the industry. Last week in New York, Australia reaffirmed our collective commitment to accelerate implementation of the Convention as part of the comprehensive effort to reduce the incidence and impact of noncommunicable diseases on our populations. We are also proud to support the efforts of our Australia-born initiative to reduce corporate investment in the tobacco industry through the launch of the Tobacco-Free Finance Pledge. Madam President, tobacco control efforts in Australia have always been marked by intense, respectful collaboration with our public health nongovernment organizations. We believe this has been a critical factor in our success to date. I acknowledge and thank the relentless expert efforts of our non-government colleagues, nationally and internationally. It is only together that we can overcome the many challenges to

global tobacco control, and in that spirit, we look forward to the progress we will make here this week with partners and colleagues. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much, Australia. Now, I request China to make their country statement.

CHINA:

主席女士：首先我代表中国代表团对您担任本届缔约方主席表示祝贺，相信在您的领导下，本届大会一定能取得成功。主席女士，第七届缔约大会以来，中国政府继续高度重视公众健康，支持公约的目的和宗旨，善意履行公约义务，多措并举取得显著成效。第一，在政策法律方面，中国颁布《健康中国 2030 规划纲要》，明确要求全面推行控烟履约，实现到 2030 年 15 岁以上人群吸烟率降低到 20% 的目标。2018 年中国进行了政府机构改革，由卫生健康委牵头公约的履约工作。立法方面，中国通过修订《广告法》，颁布《互联网广告管理暂行办法》、《慈善法》等，广泛禁止利用包括互联网和慈善捐赠在内的手段进行烟草广告、促销和赞助等活动。今年 11 月，中国西安将成为第 19 个出台地方性控烟性法规的城市，这些城市加在一起，将覆盖超过中国全国百分之十的人口。第二，行政措施方面，中国政府不断提高烟草消费税率和售价，抵制卷烟的消费。2006 年至 2017 年卷烟综合税负由 41.4% 提高到 66.8%，年约提高 2.3 个百分点，零售价格由不足 0.8 美元一盒增加到 2 美元一盒，年均增长率为年均 9.08%。第三，公众推广和服务方面，中国政府在全国范围内推动各级医疗建立戒烟门诊，积极推广戒烟干预服务，烟草使用、流行率呈缓慢下降趋势。同时，我们举办世界无烟日等控烟宣传活动，北京奥组委已经宣布，2022 年要举办一届无烟冬奥会。第四，在打击烟草制品非法生产和贸易方面，中国政府建立了由公安、海关、市场监管等执法部门组成的高效联合打假机制，保持 6.3 万人的管理队伍。目前，中国卷烟市场净化率常年保持在 96% 以上。第五，烟草替代种植方面，中国政府积极压缩烟叶种植面积。2012 年至 2017 年，烟草种植面积减少约 30%，由 114 万公顷下降到 99 万公顷。烟叶收购总量减少约 31%，由 274 万吨减少到 188 万吨，烟农户数降幅为 37.5%，由 184 万减少到 115 万户。主席女士，根据一国两制方针以及香港和澳门基本法，WHO FCTC 公约适用于中国香港特别行政区和澳门特别行政区，近年来，香港特别行政区政府通过立法、执行、宣传和教育、推广戒烟服务及增税等方法，抑制烟草使用，努力降低二手烟对公众影响。在 2017 年，香港卫生署下辖的控烟办公室进行了逾 3.3 万次巡查，并就吸烟罪行发出 9700 张定额罚款通知书。香港特区将继续加强控烟工作，争取把吸烟率降低至个位数。澳门特区政府积极通过立法、执法、宣传三管齐下的方式加强控烟。2017 年修定控烟法律，将违法吸烟的处罚金额大幅提度到约 185 美元。监测资料显示，澳门地区 15 岁以上人口烟草使用率由 2008 年的 17.3% 降至 2017 年的 12.2%。青少年烟草使用率由 2005 年的 11.9% 下降到 2015 年的 6.1%。主席女士，我在此愿和大家分享中国对促进公约履约，做好控烟工作的几点看法。一是平衡考虑公约内容与各国国情的关系，在实施公约的过程当中，要考虑不同缔方的经济社会发展状况、文化、价值观和管理体制之间的差异。控烟要把公约规定和各国实际情况结合起来。二是要平衡健康和发展的关系。对各缔约方而言，公众健康利益都处于优先地位。同时，推进控烟工作应稳扎稳打，平衡好公众健康与促进可持续发展、消除贫困的关系。三是平衡资金与收效的关系，中方在充分肯定秘书处为实现公约和开拓资金渠道所做努力的同时，建议合理地控制预算安排，相关工作宜聚焦重点。主席女士，中国愿与世界各国人民

携手起来，为建设一个更加美好的健康世界，为构建人类命运共同体共同努力。谢谢大家。

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, China. I now request Sri Lanka to make their country statement.

SRI LANKA:

Thank you, Chair. First of all, the statement made by Dr Vera and her team on developing the Global Progress Report is greatly appreciated. All implementation of the Convention shows improvement for parts on some of the Articles, whereas some of the Articles need more attention and action. We observe that the appearance of new and emerging tobacco products presents a challenge, particularly on regulators and enforcers. As further reported, it is obvious that most of the Parties noted interference by the tobacco industry. At this point, I would like to mention that at the SEA [South-East Asia] Regional briefing today, we were encouraged by the overwhelming interest expressed in the Opening Plenary Session for transparency in COP delegations. We look forward to this interest translating into a tangible COP decision to maximize transparency of COP delegations and minimise the risk of tobacco industry interference. Also, similar to previous reporting cycles, lack or insufficient coordination between sectors and lack of effective law enforcement have been observed. We urge all the Parties to work towards fulfilment of our obligations and look forward to a comprehensive tobacco control to protect our future generations from devastating effects of tobacco use. Accordingly, we consider this COP to take critical decisions that will strengthen the implementation of the Treaty, particularly a framework for global strategy. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Sri Lanka. Guatemala next.

GUATEMALA:

Muchas gracias, señora presidenta. Guatemala desea agradecer a la Secretaría del Convenio Marco por la labor que desarrolla cotidianamente en favor de los Estados Parte y, en particular, por los arreglos necesarios para la celebración de esta octava sesión de la Conferencia de las Partes. Para nosotros es importante la oportunidad de contribuir constructivamente en las discusiones que se llevarán a cabo y aportar, desde nuestra propia perspectiva, para que se tomen las mejores y más sensatas decisiones durante este período. Creemos firmemente en el espíritu del Convenio Marco y tenemos la férrea convicción que nuestras acciones generarán cambios positivos en favor de la salud pública. Nuestra propia Constitución valora el interés social por sobre el particular y otorga primacía a la protección de la vida, derecho fundamental del ser humano y sobrada razón para entregar nuestro mejor esfuerzo día a día y combinar a cada uno de los acá presentes a ello. Guatemala fue considerado como un Estado Parte pionero al aprobar en el año 2008 uno de los primeros instrumentos de legislación en materia de ambientes libres de humo de tabaco y nos alegra dar a conocer que nuestro país avanza hacia una legislación integral en su elaboración y en su contenido que nos permitiría finalmente honrar los compromisos derivados del Convenio Marco. La valoración económica de las consecuencia sanitarias, ambientales y sociales excede de manera importante la recaudación fiscal de los productos del tabaco, y estamos conscientes que el comercio ilícito es una de las

amenazas principales a las políticas de salud pública en materia de control del tabaco. Reiteramos el compromiso de Guatemala de avanzar en las respectivas consultas intergubernamentales a fin de ratificar oportunamente el protocolo para la eliminación del comercio ilícito de productos del tabaco. Congratulamos que este año se celebrará la primera reunión de las Partes MOP1 y les deseamos éxito en su labor. Como expresó recientemente la señora jefe de la Secretaría, Dra. Vera Luisa da Acosta e Silva, solo podremos vencer a los devastadores efectos de la epidemia del tabaquismo si trabajamos juntos y nos mantenemos fieles a nuestros valores. Esperamos que este período de sesiones nos permita reforzar las sinergias a nivel local, regional y global por el bien de las futuras generaciones. Muchas gracias.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Next is Ghana. Ghana, to make the country statement. If no, then we go to Georgia.

GEORGIA:

Madam President and distinguished delegates, Georgia would like to convey its appreciation to the WHO FCTC Convention Secretariat for the excellent arrangements of this Conference. We would like to congratulate this COP with the historic achievement of entry into force of the Protocol [to Eliminate] Illicit Trade [in] Tobacco Products and wishes a successful first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. Georgia is committed to join the international network and to become Party to the Protocol before the second MOP. Since the last COP, Georgia has demonstrated its strong political will to improve its national tobacco control policies in compliance with the best international standards. In May 2017, the Georgian Parliament adopted the so-called New Generation Tobacco Control Legislation introducing a series of advanced measures, including among others, a complete ban on tobacco advertising promotion and sponsorship, including a ban on display, points of sales and restriction of demonstration of smoking in movies, shows and public performances; making all public spaces smoke-free and banning tobacco vending machines; introducing advanced regulations on tobacco packaging and labelling, such as large pictorial size health warnings and standardized packaging to be introduced from January 2023. The same regulations apply to electronic devices and newly developed tobacco products. The law has novel provisions on standards of disclosure and transparency for public servants of any interaction with the tobacco industry while elaborating or adopting public health legislation in accordance with Article 5.3 of FCTC. The law also stipulates implementation of a long-term state strategy and annual state tobacco control programme in addition to the overall existing tobacco control state committee.

The health promotion and prevention council was created under the supervision of the Parliament, and the social issues – with the aim to conduct Parliamentary oversight and foster the implementation of the law through improved coordination of its provision. It is remarkable that after a three-month implementation, the ban on smoking in public places enjoys an overwhelming 85% of public support in opinion polls and 96% of compliance as reported by independent monitors. There is a strong political leadership and steady international assistance. Georgia is now one of the FCTC 2030 project Parties receiving support for the implementation of a range of programmes. In this regard, Georgia would like to use this opportunity and extend its gratitude to the Convention Secretariat and its partners, WHO and UNDP, in providing the continuous support in implementing tailored policies for advancing the implementation of WHO FCTC and enhancing the policy coherency among different sectors.

We would like also to mention with great appreciation the generous financial contribution of the governments of the United Kingdom and Australia to the FCTC 2030 project, without which, it would have been impossible to realize our ambitions. Let me take this opportunity to cordially

thank the distinguished delegates of UK and Australia present at this COP. As you can see, Madam President, the government of Georgia is determined to take steps forward towards full implementation of the WHO FCTC, but there are challenges in the journey – its manifesting forms of persistent attempts of the tobacco industry to influence public health policies and its efforts to introduce novel tobacco products to yet unprotected markets. We believe that these challenges can be overcome by finding better ways to integrate tobacco control in the development agenda and make it a priority not only for the health sector but for governments as a whole. This should be achieved in the spirit of stronger international partnerships and solidarity. We wish all of you productive upcoming days, and we hope that the decisions for the COP8 will further strengthen the common objectives of FCTC. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Georgia. Iran next.

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN:

Madam President, excellency, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. Allow me at the outset to take this opportunity to extend my most sincere felicitations to you. Madam President and the other members of the Bureau for the high office you have assumed, our thanks go equally to the Director-General and Head of the Convention Secretariat and the capable staff for providing the utmost professional support. Madam President, after four years of intense negotiation in finalizing the text and six years of waiting for the adoption of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, the entry into force of the Protocol has happened with much joy and high expectation. As the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I am greatly honoured to notice that my country posits its instrument of ratification of the Protocol with the auxiliary on 27 August 2018. Madam President, as a matter of due course, multinational tobacco companies would eventually benefit from the implementation of the Protocol, curbing illicit trade designed to avoid undetermined press measures would invariably result in increasing legal trade in tobacco products. To address this share in inequity, the international community must ensure that the tobacco industry will be held accountable for the adverse consequence of their business to public health. Tobacco-related disease and disability kill 7 million lives a year. Before it could kill even more, the Conference of the Parties should initiate the process for a future FCTC Protocol on the ability to effectively implement Article 19 on the Convention.

FCTC veterans should recall that the issue of the draft, the ability Protocol was intensely debated during the negotiation of the FCTC during the first and second INB in 2000 and 2001. Madam President, on an even more imminent concern, the tobacco industry has changed its face into that of a benevolent and global philanthropist through a non-foundation initiative to mislead the attention of the public away from the real truth. Because of the way this tobacco-funded organization operates, it is becoming more and more challenging for public health authorities to determine who the tobacco industry is. It is for this reason among others that Iran and a number of other states, namely, Oman, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Thailand, Maldives, Panama, Kenya, Djibouti will be proposing a draft decision on Article 5.3 focused on the need for more information from the tobacco industry, including its public relations activity. Ensuring a flow of information is our first line of defence as public health officials. Knowledge and commitment are for now the only power we have over the deep pocket of the tobacco industry. In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran remains committed

to the global effort to fully implement the WHO FCTC and Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products. In this way, my Government is implementing a law to increase tobacco taxation by fourfold, compared to the last report in 2016. I thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Iran. We have India now. After India, we have Thailand.

INDIA:

Respected Chair, ladies and gentlemen. India aligns with the statement of the South-East Asia Region. India has made rapid strides towards accelerated implementation of the WHO FCTC. Evidence-based policies and strategic interventions of the Government of India have led to a remarkable 17% related reduction in prevalence of tobacco use from 2009 to 2016. This means 8.1 million lesser tobacco users with steepest declines evident amongst youth. However, prevalence of tobacco use still remains high at 28.6% with nearly 267 million users. India's comprehensive tobacco legislation enables our tobacco control strategies. Tobacco control has also been integrated in the multisectoral action plans on NCDs and TB yet recognizes that reduction and relevance of tobacco use as an imperative for achievement of SDGs 3.4, 3.8 and 3.A. India is a pioneer in regulating depiction of tobacco production in films and TV through measures like statutory and anti-tobacco disclaimers. Large pictorial health warnings, including a national court line number. Occupying 85% of display areas are mandatory in the country. India is the largest consumer of smokeless tobacco. Use of tobacco and nicotine as ingredients of any food products is prohibited. We are aware of growing challenges posed by the new and emerging tobacco and nicotine products and devices. The Government of India has recently issued an advisory for limiting the use of ENTS, only for therapeutic purposes. The Government of India has also taken initiatives, such as skill development and crop diversification for creating meaningful, alternative livelihood opportunities for tobacco cultivators and workers' households. India is amongst the first 40 countries to have exceeded to illicit trade protocols under Article 15 of FCTC. Ladies and gentlemen, India is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. We have made significant progress in tobacco control in recent years. We are particularly enthused by the draft Medium-term Strategic Framework providing the global strategy to accelerated tobacco controls, along with other proposed initiatives in the agenda of COP8. I assure you that we will continue to strive to contribute to global tobacco control efforts. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Next, we have Thailand. After Thailand, Costa Rica.

THAILAND:

Thank you, Madam President and honourable delegates. Thailand wishes to share our WHO FCTC implementation as follows. Since July 4th, 2017, Thailand has enacted the new Tobacco Products Control Act 2017 to further strengthen its typical response. The new law consists of stringent measures to fully comply with the WHO FCTC application to diminish loopholes in the old laws. Some highlights mention a total ban on advertisement of tobacco products in all marketing communications through any form of media, including display of cigarette packs; a ban on tobacco companies conducting less than socially responsible activities; a ban on selling tobacco products of people aged under 20; a ban on people aged under 18 selling tobacco products and a ban on selling tobacco products at exercise sites, hospitals, pharmacies,

educational institutions, public parks, schools and amusement parks. Also in the same year, Thailand has progressed in price and tax matters. The new excise tax has been enacted and since September 16th, 2017, the tax price extends from ex-factory price to suggested retail price and excise tax raise on cigarettes.

The excise tax raise applies to a tobacco product as follows: a tax is based on a product and a specific tax is based on a product amount, which makes overall tax-free cigarettes as high as 80% of retail sale price. The COP7 in 2016 requested the Secretariat's Knowledge Hub on Article 5.3 with the support of ministries of public health. The Global Centre for Good Governance in Tobacco Control of GGTC has been decided by the FCTC Secretariat to serve as the Knowledge Hub on Article 5.3 to support implementation of the Convention obligation on protecting against tobacco industry interference. GGTC aims to provide actionable tools and overall government strategies to overcome challenges brought on by the tobacco industry and those seeking to respond with interest. Thailand will continue implementing tobacco control measures with our efforts to achieve the ultimate Sustainable Development Goals. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Costa Rica next. After Costa Rica, it is Iraq.

COSTA RICA:

Buenas tardes. Señora presidenta y señores y señoras delegados. La COP8 constituye un espacio esencial para seguir adquiriendo experiencias y compromisos internacionales para contrarrestar los efectos nocivos del tabaco sobre la salud de las personas. La salud es un derecho fundamental de todos y todas, y es indispensable garantizar que se establezcan los mecanismos necesarios para promover este derecho humano. Nuestro país tiene interés de seguir desarrollando los aspectos contenidos en el Convenio Marco de control del tabaco. Actualmente, revisa la iniciativa de cooperación triangular Sur-Sur con la República de Brasil y espera en los próximos meses aprovechar la propuesta presentada por la República de Ecuador, ya que actualmente desarrolla el estudio de mercado de comercio ilícito de productos de tabaco con el propósito de impulsar e implementar el sistema de trazabilidad fiscal. Asimismo, apoyará en lo que corresponda para que se implemente el protocolo de comercio ilícito de productos de tabaco. Mi país tiene fortalezas y desafíos. Tras la implementación de la ley 9028, en el 2012 se prohíbe fumar en espacios públicos, y la población costarricense conoce acerca del derecho a la salud. Sin embargo, anualmente invierte hasta un 70 % más del monto recaudado por el impuesto sobre el tabaco y sus derivados para atender los efectos negativos sobre la salud asociados con el tabaquismo. Recientemente, el Ente Costarricense de Acreditación acreditó con cuatro normas ISO el primer laboratorio para la verificación y monitoreo de los contenidos de productos de tabaco en el Instituto Costarricense de Investigación y Enseñanza en Nutrición y Salud (INCIENSA). Por ello, para Costa Rica es de interés un abordaje del tema del tabaquismo en un marco integral, es decir, en su relación con el desarrollo de acciones en las que se garantice el desarrollo sostenible, los derechos humanos, las cuestiones de género, el medioambiente, asimismo que no se aproveche la promoción, publicidad y patrocinio para incentivar el tabaquismo entre la población más joven. Aunque se cuenta con grandes logros, aún debemos seguir adelante para asegurar las medidas necesarias para garantizar el mejor estado de la salud biopsicosocial de las personas que habitan en Costa Rica, en la región latinoamericana y en el mundo. Muchas gracias.

THE PRESIDENT

Costa Rica. Sorry. Thank you, Costa Rica. We have Iraq next.

IRAQ

شكرا جزيلاً سيادة الرئيسة

سعيدين انا والوفد العراقي جميعا بوجودنا في هذا الجمع الخير الذي يهدف الى حماية الانسان والانسانية من هذه الآفة الشرسة، ولو نطلع على احصائية في 2015 نجد انه هناك 5 مليون ضحية في العالم من جراء هذه الآفة، و 7 مليون في 2018، ولنطلع على الفرق الشاسع والازدياد في تهادى هذه الآفة، والتي بدأت تفوق ضحايا جرائم الارهاب وايضا ضحايا حوادث الطرق والسيارات، حيث ان هناك احصائية تتحدث عن 7 مليار نسمة في العالم او اكثر يقابلها مليار و10 مليون مركبة، وعدد ضحايا الحوادث مليون و200 الف، فنرى الفرق الشاسع بين ضحايا الطرق وهذه الآفة الشرسة، نرى ضرورة تضاصر الجهود لايقاف هذه الآفة وان للاعلام دور كبير في ذلك.

وايضا نتقدم باسمى وباسم الوفد العراقي بالتهنئة على انتخابكم سيادة الرئيسة كرئيسة لمؤتمر الدول الاطراف في اتفاقية منظمة الصحة العالمية الاطارية بشأن مكافحة التبغ، واننا على ثقة تامة، اعتمادا على ما تتمتعون به من حكمة ومهارة ستفقدوا المؤتمر لنتائج عملية ناجحة، وسيكون الوفد العراقي خير داعم لكم لانجاح مهامكم.

السيدات والسادة، برغم جميع التحديات الداخلية والخارجية على المستويين الامنى والاقتصادي، يؤكد العراق التزامه التام بمكافحة التبغ وتنفيذ بنود اتفاقية منظمة الصحة العالمية الاطارية بشأن مكافحة التبغ التي صادق عليها عام 2007 تنفيذا كاملا لتحقيق اهدافها، وذلك من خلال اعداد خطة وطنية شاملة لمكافحة التدخين في العراق تتماشى مع الاستراتيجية العالمية وتنفذ بمشاركة جميع الوزارات والقطاعات والمؤسسات الصحية ومنظمات المجتمع المدني في العراق، علاوة على تشريع القوانين الخاصة بمكافحة التبغ، والتي كان اولها قانون مكافحة التدخين عام 2012 بالاضافة للتعليمات الخاصة بتنفيذه عام 2014، كما يفرض العراق ضرائب بنسبة 100% على استيراد منتجات التبغ كضوابط معتمدة في الهيئة العامة للضرائب كضريبة انتقائية منذ العام 2017 والتي بدورها تؤدي لارتفاع اسعار البيع بالتجزئة والتقليل من استهلاك التبغ بالتماشى مع بنود الاستراتيجية، كما يعمل العراق الان على مراجعة وتعديل فقرات قانون مكافحة التدخين بما يتماشى مع بنود الاتفاقية ومبادئها التوجيهية ليصبح تحت عنوان قانون الحد من اضرار التبغ والذي سيكون اكثر شمولية وتنفيذا لبنود الاتفاقية من القانون السابق وله الاثر الواضح في حماية الصحة العامة في العراق

لقد صادق العراق على بروتوكول الاتجار غير المشروع في منتجات التبغ ليكون من اوائل الدول التي صادقت عليه واودعت وثيقة التصديق، فهو من بين 13 دولة عالميا والثاني بين دول الشرق الاوسط، ايمانا منه بمضار التبغ واثاره الجانبية على الصحة العامة للمجتمع وتنفيذا للالتزامات الدولية بهذا الصدد وضرورة السيطرة على جميع اشكال الاتجار غير المشروع لمنتجات التبغ وحماية سياسات الصحة العمومية فيما يتعلق بمكافحة التبغ من المصالح التجارية والمصالح الاخرى لدوائر صناعة التبغ.

عمل العراق على اجراء عدة مسوحات وطنية بالتعاون مع منظمة الصحة العالمية ليرصد حالات تعاطي التبغ لفئتي الشباب والبالغين كونهم الفئة الاكثر تعاطيا له، بالاضافة لحملة وطنية شاملة لمناهضة التدخين حسب ضوابط منظمة الصحة العالمية، ويعمل الان على تطبيق مشروع مدارس مناهضة للتدخين ليتم التركيز فيها على فئة المراهقين من خلال التعريف بأضرار التدخين، كذلك مشروع تقديم خدمات الاقلاع عن التدخين وتوفير معوضات النيكوتين في المراكز الصحية.

الزميلات والزملاء الاعزاء، كما تعلمون سوف تناقش هذه الدورة القضايا والتحديات التي تهم الاطراف في الاتفاقية، اذ يشكل بعضها مصدر قلق خاصة لبلداننا لاسباب يكشف عنها تقرير التقدم العالمي عن تنفيذ اتفاقية منظمة الصحة العالمية الاطارية لمكافحة التبغ، كإنتشار طرق جديدة لاستعمال منتجات التبغ والترويج لها وكذلك وضع اطار عمل استراتيجي يحدد مهام وفعاليات الدول الاطراف في المرحلة القادمة، لذا فانا نؤكد على التزام العراق بدعم الاطراف للاتفاقية بما يحقق تنفيذ بنودها وما يصدر عن المؤتمر من قرارات وخطة شاملة واطار عمل استراتيجي.

السيدات والسادة، ختاماً، نغتنم هذه الفرصة لتوجيه الدعوة للدول كافة لتسريع انضمامها الى بروتوكول الاتجار غير المشروع في منتجات التبغ، وتشريع سياسات وقوانين وطنية تضمن تنفيذ التزاماتها في هذا المجال، لأن موضوع مكافحة التبغ لايمكن ان يتم الا بشراكة عالمية وتنسيق بين حكومات الدول ضمن اطار الاتفاقية والبروتوكول، كما لدينا مقترح من الوفد العراقي

بان تتضمن المناهج الدراسية الوطنية في المدارس والمعاهد والكليات توجيهات لمكافحة التدخين ومضاره واثاره السلبية على الصحة العامة، وشكرا للاصغاء واسف للاطالة، شكرا.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you and thank you for the interest shown by all the Parties. We've had four regional statements. We have, including Uganda, 33 country statements to be made out of, which we've already done 15. With Iraq closing, time is up for today, because you see we are hosting it in Geneva. We can't exceed the time. I have the following proposal. Out of the 33, 15 already over. The rest of the countries will make the statement tomorrow. We continue with the Plenary Session, but I request the regions to quickly have a meeting of the countries involved in volunteering for Committee A and B. Please arrive at the consensus, because this is the first thing that we will do tomorrow. We will appoint our officers for Committee A and Committee B. The Convention Secretariat has something to add. I am giving the floor to the Convention Secretariat, please go ahead.

THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT:

Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. I just at this point will try to find out a convenient room for the Convention Parties to meet. Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT:

I suggest that instead of us trying to find a room, please meet here only. Please meet here and resolve – OK, in any corner you like. Thank you so much. We have had a very hectic and fruitful day. I'm sure that many of us are jet lagged, too. I look forward to meeting you all tomorrow. Thank you.

The meeting rose at 18:00

THIRD PLENARY MEETING

Tuesday, 02 October 2018 at 10:00

CONTINUATION OF ITEM 1.1

THE PRESIDENT

Good morning, I would like to start by asking if the regional coordinators have reached a consensus on the chairmanship of both Committees.

EMR, Regional coordinator, you have the floor.

Good morning, everyone. Good morning, Ms Chair. I want to present an EMR statement.

THE PRESIDENT:

As far as the statements are concerned, kindly note that we had actually finalized the list by yesterday, but I think we did not announce that, so I will accept this EMR statement. Also, there is a request from Kiribati – they sent an email early morning – so, a country statement by Kiribati and a statement by EMR for the Region by Qatar. So that's fine, thank you for that. We'll have it in a little while. Can you just please let me know whether we have reached a consensus on the chairs and vice-chairs of the two Committees? I request all the regions to let us know. EMR, please. Oman?

OMAN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. We have no change in our position at the moment, because I understand for Committee A we have still the same candidate, Bahrain, for Vice-Chair of the Committee A. I just want to reiterate that and confirm that. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

EUR? It's obvious, I think, from Oman's statement that we have not reached a consensus. I request the regions – the Coordinators of the regions – to please meet again. We need to resolve this as soon as possible. We can't go on with this endlessly. Kindly meet my earnest request to you and please arrive at a consensus. Thank you very much. And I request the Secretariat to please arrange a place for them where they can sit and talk.

THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT:

We invite the interested parties and Regional Coordinators: if you kindly go to Room 18, where the WPR morning consultation meeting takes place. It's on the first floor, and the room is 18. If you could go there, and then have a discussion and then resolve the issue of the chairs. Thank you. No interpretation will be provided in this consultation.

CONTINUATION OF ITEM 5:**THE PRESIDENT:**

Thank you. Regional Coordinators, kindly resolve this after talking to each other. As announced, the Bureau meeting room is available for you to carry out your consultations. Thank you. And now we begin with the country statements. I'll just read out the countries that are listed, and the list is closed, please. So, we have: Canada, Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Nigeria, Burundi, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Uruguay, Egypt, Benin, Zambia, Russia, Kuwait, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ukraine, Peru, Nepal, Kiribati. We also have a non-party, Switzerland, which will come in the end. Now we will begin with the country statement of EMR by Qatar. Qatar, please. And we have to stick to the time limit, because we can't go on – we have a very limited time available, as you know. So I'm going to use this to sort of let you know that your time is up, and I request you to stop when the time is up. And here is the traffic light, which will show you where you are. I believe there are two more such signals to the left and the right of the stage. So, we begin with EMR regional statement by Qatar. Thank you.

EMR:

شكرًا لسعادة الرئيسة

سكرتارية الاتفاقية المحترمة

الأعضاء في الاتفاقية الإطارية الأفاضل

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

يود إقليم شرق المتوسط الإشادة بمجهود السكرتاريا في مساندة الدول الأعضاء في سبل تطبيق الاتفاقية الإطارية.

نشكر كذلك منظمة الصحة العالمية لدعمها المستمر للدول الأعضاء في الإقليم. ويهنئ الإقليم رئيسة المؤتمر على ترؤوسها لأعمالها متمنياً لها التوفيق في إدارة الجلسات والنجاح لأعمال المؤتمر.

لقد مرّ إقليم شرق المتوسط بمتغيرات كثيرة في مجال مكافحه التبغ، ورغم وجود تطورات إيجابية في الإقليم، إلا أن التحديات تستمر، وكلما تقدمنا في مكافحه التبغ، كلما زادت هذه التحديات للأسف.

منذ اجتماع مؤتمر الأطراف السابق حدثت أكثر من دولة ضرائبها لمنتجات التبغ لتكون أكثر توافقاً مع نصوص الاتفاقية والمادة رقم ستة.

وكذلك تعمل مجموعه من الدول على تحديث تحذيراتها الصحية على منتجات التبغ كافة. بل أن دولة في الإقليم قد أعلنت عن نيتها لتطبيق التوسيم الموحد على منتجات التبغ، وما زال الإقليم يسير قُدماً في منع الدعاية والإعلان والترويج لمنتجات التبغ، وقد ضمنت بعض الدول أنشطة المسؤولية المجتمعية المشتركة داخل هذا المنع. يظل منع التدخين في الأماكن العامة من التحديات - للأسف - التي لا تزال تواجه دولنا، ونعمل على مختلف الأصعدة لتحسين الوضع.

وكان من إنجازات العام الحالي انضمام خمس دول من الإقليم لبروتوكول القضاء على الإتجار غير المشروع على منتجات التبغ، ونأمل أن تنضم مزيد من الدول من الآن حتى الدورة القادمة لمؤتمر الأطراف.

يستضيف كذلك الإقليم مركزين للمساعدة على الإقلاع وخدمة جميع دول الإقليم في هذا الشأن.

يواجه إقليم شرق المتوسط تحدٍ رئيسي في إبقاء مكافحة التبغ كأولوية عليا في ظل التحديات التي تواجه دول الإقليم خاصة، ومجموعة كبيرة من الدول تواجه حالات طوارئ أو في مرحلة تعافي من حالة طوارئ سابقة. ومع ذلك تدفع وزارات الصحة مكافحة التبغ قُدماً.

ومن المؤكّد أن طرح موضوع تطبيق مكافحة التبغ في الدول التي تواجه حالات الطوارئ هذه سيساهم إيجابياً في دعم مكافحة التبغ في دول الإقليم كافة، وليس فقط في تلك الدول، كذلك نشاطات شركات التبغ وتحالفاتها الجديدة في الإقليم تعرقل كثيراً - كما نرى - التقدم المأمول.

ومما لا شك فيه أن اعتماد مؤتمر الاطراف لقرارات هذا الشأن سيدعم أنشطته الدول في هذا الإطار بما يُراعى الأولويات الوطنية.

الآن يتم انعقاد المؤتمر الأطراف، بما لا يدع مجالاً للشك أن مكافحة التبغ دائماً في تطور مستمر، وهذه الرسالة رسالة مهمة للدول الاطراف ليستمر التطبيق بالقوة المطلوبة في المستقبل.

شكراً لسعادة الرئيسة

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Now I request Canada to make their country statement.

CANADA:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson and distinguished colleagues. Canada would like to express, first of all, our gratitude to Dr Vera for her leadership and to the Convention Secretariat for their efforts in planning and organizing this COP and their efforts in the preceding biennium. Canada places great importance on the implementation of the Convention, therefore we welcome the progress report by the Secretariat and we are encouraged by recent measures towards its implementation. I'm pleased to report that Canada continues to do our part. Consistent with advancing Article 5, the Government of Canada recently launched Canada's tobacco strategy, which set a target for us of less than 5% tobacco use by 2035, including investments in product regulation, outreach, science and surveillance, and working with partners to reach out to Canadians with high rates of tobacco use, including indigenous peoples. An important component of that strategy is a major amendment to Canada's Tobacco Act, which now becomes the Tobacco and Vaping Act as of May 2018. That act enabled further promotion restrictions, including by means of packaging, consistent with Articles 11 and 13 of the FCTC.

In this regard, our Government recently concluded public consultation on proposed plain packaging regulations. We intend to move quickly to implement plain packaging of tobacco products in Canada. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the countries who have gone before us on plain packaging and provided assistance to us on our journey, including Australia, the UK and France. We have greatly appreciated the international collaboration, advice and support that we have received in the course of developing our law and regulations, and the spirit of openness in which it has been offered. Looking to the COP8 discussions, I would encourage all parties to stand behind the Medium-term Strategic Framework, as it offers a roadmap with clear priorities, targets and indicators. This will lead to more efficient allocation of resources and move the needle forward in reducing tobacco use. We're looking forward to a successful COP and working together with the Parties to continue to support FCTC implementation at home and abroad. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Canada. Now I request Republic of Korea to make their country statement.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. The Government of the Republic of Korea would like to extend our gratitude to the Convention Secretariat of the WHO FCTC and the Bureau for their substantial efforts to prepare this important meeting.

In line with the theme of the WHO FCTC's inclusion in national plans for the SDGs, the Korean government has been taking meaningful measures to strengthen national tobacco control policies, such as increase of tobacco tax, designation of more smoke-free areas, and graphic health warnings on all types of tobacco products.

The Korean government may take this opportunity to emphasize the sincere contribution from the Korean Association on Smoking or Health for the last 30 years and will continue its efforts with the sustainable partnership with academia and civil societies. However, the emergence of novel tobacco products such as heated tobacco products attempts to challenge our efforts to protect present and future generations from the harm of tobacco products. The Korean Government raised the tax level of HTP equivalent to cigarettes, and a new health warning carrying an image of a carcinoma will be put on the packaging of HTP from this December. Still, tobacco industry's interference continues and evolves globally, and we urge all parties to the Convention to work together and establish a coordinated response. The Republic of Korea once again would like to reaffirm our strong commitment to the full implementation of the WHO FCTC and close cooperation with all the distinguished parties. Thank you for your attention.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. I now invite Ecuador to make their country statement.

ECUADOR:

Señora presidenta, permítame en primer lugar felicitarle por haber asumido la presidencia de esta importante reunión en la cual es un honor para el Gobierno de la República del Ecuador participar. Sin duda alguna, el tiempo transcurrido desde la anterior Conferencia de las Partes estaba marcado por las buenas noticias y el avance de la implementación del Convenio. La prueba más contundente de ello es la entrada en vigor del protocolo para la eliminación del comercio ilícito de productos de tabaco. Ecuador fue el octavo país en el mundo en ratificarlo en julio de 2015. Felicítamos a los Estados que también lo ratificaron y alentamos a los demás unirse lo antes posible a este importante instrumento. Señora presidenta, en Ecuador tres de cada diez adultos, entre 20 y 59 años, consumen tabaco. La consecuencia de esta realidad: 21 personas mueren cada día por causas asociadas al consumo de tabaco. En 2016, seis de las diez principales causas de mortalidad del Ecuador estuvieron relacionadas con el consumo de tabaco, generando un costo directo anual de 478 millones, lo que equivale al 0.47 del Producto Interno Bruto del país y al 6.32 de todo el gasto público anual de salud. Aunque se avanza en recaudación impositiva por la venta de cigarrillos, esta apenas genera alrededor de 194 millones anuales, un valor que llega a cubrir solo el 40 % de los gastos directos provocados por el

tabaquismo en el sistema de salud. El Ecuador otorga crucial importancia al respecto y promoción de los derechos humanos, en este caso en particular al derecho a la vida, a la salud y a un ambiente sano. En este marco, conforme al objetivo 3 de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, que busca garantizar una vida sana, Ecuador ha trabajado incansablemente en el ámbito de política pública para combatir el consumo de tabaco. Así podemos mencionar el progresivo aumento de la imposición tributaria en tabaco, la realización de talleres con profesionales de la salud y contrapartes de otros países para incidir en el proceso de cesación del consumo del tabaco, el lanzamiento de un servicio de asesoría para el abandono de consumo de tabaco a través de una línea de consulta gratuita, o la realización de la séptima ronda de las advertencias sanitarias para productos de tabaco, entre varias otras medidas. Señora presidenta, Ecuador continuará implementando políticas dirigidas a la protección de las generaciones presentes y futuras contra las devastadoras consecuencias sanitarias, sociales, ambientales y económicas del consumo y de la exposición al humo del tabaco. Queremos que este Convenio sea un instrumento internacional referente y reitera en este sentido su apoyo y compromiso y restricto con el mismo. Muchas gracias.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. And now I invite Nigeria to make their country statement.

NIGERIA :

Mr President, Head of the Convention Secretariat, excellencies, delegates. I bring you special greetings from the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Yesterday, October 1st 2018, was the 50th anniversary of the independence of Nigeria, and events marking the occasion presided over by Chairperson Buhari are the reasons I missed the first day. My delegation wishes to congratulate the President of the Eighth Session of the Conference of Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, COP8, as well as the head of the Convention Secretariat, for the excellent preparatory work done in convening this meeting. Mr President, since the last Conference of Parties, Nigeria has made significant strides towards curtailing tobacco use among the citizens. We intensified efforts in the implementation of the National Tobacco Control Act of 2015, which is a national law that domesticates the WHO FCTC. Through multisectoral engagement involving Government and civil society organizations, the Nigerian Government has begun a mass awareness campaign on provisions of the National Tobacco Control Act 2015 to create the enabling environment for enforcement. Nigeria is strongly desirous of protecting citizens, particularly youths, from reckless access to tobacco products. We therefore adopted the original Economic Community of West African States – ECOWAS – directive on harmonization of excise duty on tobacco products in Member States and raised the excise tax regime on tobacco products from 16 to 23.2%. This is to be further reviewed upwards over the next two years as we work with the original ECOWAS bloc towards meeting the WHO-recommended excise tax level corresponding to 70% of the retail price of tobacco products. In addition to this, the Nigerian Government has reviewed the industrial standards of cigarettes to include the complete ban on cigarettes with characterizing flavours including menthol.

The Government of Nigeria ratified the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, and the instrument of accession will be finalized and deposited at the UN headquarters imminently. To demonstrate Nigeria's strong commitment to the sanctity and protection of tobacco control policies and the implementation of FCTC, I am pleased to announce that every member of the Nigerian delegation here at this COP8 meeting signed the Declaration of Conflict of Interest form, which shall be made available to the COP Secretariat. This is to be Nigeria's

practice for all subsequent COPs. We believe that the threat of imminent climate change is real, and as with tobacco use, the impact of climate change is heavier in developing countries, hence the need for international partnership and collaboration on appropriate measures for prevention as well as mitigation. Weather pattern uncertainty has been observed in recent times, and during this rainy season, the Nigerian Government has had to declare emergencies in four states where flash floods threatened to displace 21 million people. We associate ourselves with those who see a correlation between climate change and tobacco cultivation. Although Nigeria is not a major tobacco-growing country, we bear witness that tobacco farming leads to deforestation due to land clearing and curing of tobacco leaves. It also increases land and water contamination due to extensive pesticide use among other factors. I therefore invite members and partners to support Nigeria in advocacy for a sustainable environment against tobacco farming. In conclusion, Nigeria wishes to congratulate Mr President for leading this high-level discussion, and we hereby express support for further collaboration and partnership in this area. I wish all delegates here happy and fruitful deliberations.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Nigeria, we are much encouraged. Now the head of the Secretariat has good news for us, so I request her to take the floor.

CONTINUATION OF ITEM 1.1

HEAD OF THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Parties have reached an agreement and we now have a chair for Committee A, who is Guyana, and two vice-chairs, who are Korea and Bahrain. And for Committee B, Thailand – Thailand chairs Committee B, with vice-chairs from Slovakia and Côte d'Ivoire.

THE PRESIDENT:

I must thank the two committees. I must thank the Regional Coordinators for arriving at a consensus so that we can move forward. We now have our chairs and vice-chairs for both the Committees, I thank you. Committee B will start its work in Room 2 while plenary continues in Room 1 with Agenda Item number 5 as we continue. After its closure, Committee A will start its work in this room. I hope you have noted that. So, Committee B can proceed and start their work in Room 2. So, we carry on with our country statements. Next is Burundi.

CONTINUATION OF ITEM 5

BURUNDI :

Merci, Madame la Présidente, de me donner la parole. Madame la Présidente, mesdames et messieurs, le Burundi voudrait remercier le Secrétariat de la Convention pour l'organisation de cette 8^e session de la COP. Le Burundi a ratifié la convention-cadre le 22 novembre 2005 et elle est entrée en vigueur le 22 février 2006. Au Burundi, la culture industrielle du tabac n'existe pas. Seuls des petits lopins de terre sont cultivés à des fins commerciales localement. La seule industrie qui existe importe des produits du tabac semi-finis pour être manufacturés sous forme de cigarettes. Malgré l'absence d'études, le tabagisme constitue un problème sanitaire, socio-

économique, mais aussi environnemental. Malheureusement, nous ne disposons pas de statistiques sanitaires nationales. Le Burundi a préparé la loi antitabac qui constitue la pierre angulaire pour l'application effective de la convention-cadre pour la lutte antitabac depuis 2011. Ce projet a été analysé par le conseil des ministres. Malheureusement, l'industrie du tabac s'est invitée dans ce processus et il y a eu des difficultés pour son avancement jusqu'en 2017. Durant cette période, où le projet de loi n'avancait pas, l'État burundais a initié quelques mesures antitabac par les ordonnances et les instructions ministérielles telles que : désignation d'un point focal national pour la lutte antitabac ; exigences d'informations sur les méfaits des produits du tabac sur la santé ; interdiction de la vente de cigarettes aux enfants et dans certains lieux publics ; augmentation de la taxe sur les produits du tabac. Comme progrès réalisés dans la mise en œuvre des principales dispositions de lutte antitabac, le Burundi vient d'adopter et promulguer une loi portant sur l'offre de soins et de services de santé dans laquelle se trouve intégralement la loi antitabac qui n'avait pas pu passer à l'Assemblée nationale suite à l'ingérence de cette industrie du tabac. Ainsi dans le code qui vient d'être promulgué, on y trouve la loi portant sur la réglementation de la production, de la commercialisation et de la consommation du tabac et de ses produits dérivés. Aussi, diverses activités d'informations et de communication ainsi que les activités de sensibilisation aux méfaits de la consommation de tabac et de l'exposition à la fumée du tabac ont été réalisées. Enfin le Burundi soutient l'intervention de la [incompréhensible] faite au nord de la région africaine et demande au Secrétariat d'accompagner les parties pour renforcer les mesures antitabac et protéger les populations innocentes. Je vous remercie.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. I now request Zimbabwe to take the floor.

ZIMBABWE:

Madam Chairperson, the delegation of the Republic of Zimbabwe would like to thank the Head of Secretariat and her team for the great work that they have put in to facilitate this meeting. We reaffirm our commitment to the implementation of the Convention, as it is a tool designed to save precious lives. We have so far legislated to ban smoking in public spaces and public transport; enforced health warnings on packaging; banned promotions, advertising and sponsorship in schools; banned selling to or by minors; and levied taxes on tobacco and its products that go into education and environmental protection among other measures. We appreciate the efforts by the Secretariat towards ensuring the full implementation of the Convention and its protocols, and Zimbabwe has benefitted from an FCTC initiative through a 40 000 [US] dollar fund towards research into alternatives to tobacco growing in relation to Article 17. I am glad that the country research was carried out on time and the report was submitted to the Secretariat. What came out of the report is that whilst there are alternatives, for the switch to be sustainable, viable and acceptable, adequate supportive processes and infrastructure have to be developed to cushion not only small-scale farmers, but even well-established commercial farming entities. Most of the small-order farmers doing tobacco are also into production of other cash crops that include paprika, ground nuts and cotton, and this was seen as potentially facilitating planned moves to alternative crops. Regarding Article 18, you may want to know that the country follows best practices with regard to farming, including tobacco handling from farms to factories.

Conscious of the environmental hazards that may be caused by tobacco growing and its value chain, the country has put in place a number of measures that include the reforestation fund targeted at developing woodlands to replenish affected forest areas. This is funded through

a tax on each kilogram of tobacco sold on the country's auction floors. On Articles 9 and 10, we believe a lot of work has gone into the realization of their intent, and still more needs to be done to every standardized framework and approach. We recommend and look forward to the continuation of this work that will help in reaching informed decisions around the two Articles. We are, however, worried that inasmuch as COP7 mandated the working group on [Articles] 9 and 10 to meet and report back to COP8, there has not been any meeting of the working group that was conducted, at least to our best knowledge as a member of the working group who has not been invited. Coming on to the issue that was deferred to COP8 and COP7 – maximizing the transparency of delegations and the proposal to sign a declaration of interest – the government of Zimbabwe's opinion is that further consideration is needed on this matter, especially noting that the WHO FCTC is under the WHO UN organizations and relates and is bound by the Vienna Convention on the Representation of States in their Relations with International Organizations of a Universal Character. Madam Chairperson, the successful implementation of the FCTC should proceed by way of candid, open and factual debates as opposed to exclusion or provisions, which kill the very spirit of freedom of expression and meaningful participation by Member States. We look forward to fruitful deliberations in COP8. I thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. I now invite Uruguay to make their country statement. Uruguay.

URUGUAY:

Gracias, señora presidenta. Uruguay es un país firmemente comprometido con la salud pública, y en ese sentido desde nuestra ratificación del Convenio Marco hemos hecho los mayores esfuerzos posibles para lograr su plena implementación. Contamos con una avanzada legislación y hemos promovido distintas políticas destinadas a minimizar la interferencia de la industria tabacalera. Quisiera subrayar que somos uno de los países cuya delegación ha firmado voluntariamente una declaración de no conflicto de intereses para esta COP y también lo habíamos hecho para la COP anterior, la COP7. En esa línea, quisiera decir que el camino no ha sido sencillo, y nuestro país ha sido objeto de repetidos desafíos legales, pero resultados obtenidos con nuestras políticas muestran una reducción del consumo de tabaco y, por lo tanto, de las problemáticas asociadas al mismo, y esto es un motivo importante para seguir adelante. En esa línea, quisiéramos destacar la entrada en vigor del Protocolo para la eliminación del comercio ilícito de productos de tabacos, el cual complementará los esfuerzos realizados por las Partes en el marco del convenio. Como Estado Parte de ambos instrumentos, para Uruguay será crucial aprovechar el marco que brinda la conferencia para debatir en detalle los procedimientos que coordinen los trabajos de ambos instrumentos. Nuestro país celebra los avances que se han producido desde la última COP, y recuerda la importancia de las políticas de control de tabaco en el marco de la instrumentación de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible. Sin embargo, somos conscientes de que los desafíos que enfrentan los países en desarrollo, entre ellos el de la fuerte interferencia de la industria, son actualmente un problema importante. Uruguay se encuentra sorteando obstáculos de este tipo para poder instrumentar el empaquetado genérico que ya ha sido aprobado por nuestro Gobierno. Cabe precisar que los logros a nivel internacional se encuentran mayormente concentrados en países desarrollados. Aquellos países con carencias se encuentran mucho más expuestos a las presiones de la industria que actúa no solo a nivel nacional, sino también en el marco de algunos organismos internacionales. Por esa razón, Uruguay hace un llamado al Secretariado y a las Partes para identificar alternativas de

financiamiento que garantice la implementación efectiva del Convenio en diferentes modalidades, como usar la cooperación tradicional y también la cooperación triangular o la Sur-Sur. Nuestro país tiene el honor de albergar al centro de intercambio de conocimientos de la región, y se encuentra a entera disposición de las Partes e instituciones para brindar asistencia técnica y confeccionar planes de cooperación. Finalmente, destacamos la necesidad de optimizar los recursos disponibles compartiendo buenas prácticas y experiencias exitosas, razón por la cual apoyamos la iniciativa del marco estratégico a mediano plazo. Creemos que esta iniciativa promoverá la implementación del convenio fundamental para elevar los niveles de bienestar de nuestras sociedades poniendo la salud como derecho humano fundamental, como objetivo esencial e irrenunciable de nuestros gobiernos. Muchas gracias.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Now I request Egypt to take the floor.

EGYPT:

شكرًا سيدتي الرئيسة

في البداية أود أن أتقدم للأمانة العامة للاتفاقية بالشكر على استضافة مؤتمر الأطراف الثامن وعلى التنظيم المتميز وبالتهنئة لسيادتكم على رئاسة المؤتمر.

كما أود أن أتقدم بالشكر لأمانة الاتفاقية ومنظمه الصحة العالمية ومكتبها الإقليمي على كل الدعم الفني المقدم للأطراف في سبيل التطبيق الكامل للاتفاقية.

نحن في جمهوريه مصر العربية نخطو خطوات كبيرة في مكافحة التبغ ونسعى لخفض استهلاك التبغ بكل أنواعه، وقد تبنت الحكومة المصرية سياسات تهدف الى تخفيض استهلاك التبغ، وتمنع التدخين في الأماكن العامة ومنع الاعلان عن التبغ والترويج له.

ولا يخفى عليكم أن الاتفاقية الإطارية لمنظمة الصحة العالمية قد رسمت لنا خارطة طريق لتحقيق ذلك، وكذلك الدعم الكبير الذي نلقاه من أمانة الاتفاقية ومنظمة الصحة العالمية والمكتب الإقليمي للمنظمة في القاهرة.

السيدات والسادة،

نحن نؤكد على التزامنا الكامل بالمادة 53 الخاصة بعدم تدخل أو مشاركته دوائر صناعه التبغ في هذا المحفل الأهم دوليًا. وإذ تواجه شركات صناعه التبغ ضغوطاً كبيرة نظراً للنجاحات التي حققتها الاتفاقية في خفض معدلات الاستهلاك. وتسعى تلك الشركات إلى إيجاد منتجات جديدة قد يكون لها أثار أقل على الصحة العامة، وقد أصدر المؤتمر في دورته السابعة التي عُقدت في نيودلهي القرار رقم 9 وهو قرار الذي يدعو إلى إجراء المزيد من التقييم والبحث حول هذه المنتجات المستحدثة والتي لاتزال مخاطرها غير معروفة. ومن هذا المنطلق ندعم التوجه نحو وضع قواعد تنظيمية لتلك المنتجات، على ضوء تقييم مخاطرها واضرارها وعدم مساواتها بالمنتجات التقليدية لشركات التبغ حتى تتضح آثارها، وندعم في هذا الاطار مشاركة جميع الأطراف المعنية في دراسة مخاطر المنتجات الجديدة وآثارها على الصحة العامة.

سيدتي الرئيسة،

يُسعدنا خلال مؤتمر الأطراف ان نعمل مع الجميع لمواجهة التحديات التي تواجهنا في حظر الإعلان عن التبغ في وسائل الإعلام المختلفة، ومناقشة التحدي الذي واجه الجميع في تحقيق هدف الحد من الامراض غير السارية، وكذلك ظاهرة انتشار الشيشة وتداعياتها على الصحة العامة.

مرة أخرى، نتمنى نجاح المؤتمر في تحقيق أهدافه ونؤكد على أهمية استمرار جهود الدول الأطراف وأمانة الاتفاقية لمكافحة التبغ وتحقيق المزيد من النجاحات.

وشكرًا سيدتي الرئيسة.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. I now request Benin to take the floor.

BENIN :

Je vous remercie Madame la Présidente. Je prends la parole au nom de la délégation béninoise pour saluer les efforts de la convention du Secrétariat de l’OMS pour la lutte antitabac, pour la tenue de la 8^e session de la COP. Le Bénin souscrit à la déclaration faite par Maurice au nom de la région africaine. Le tabagisme, jadis considéré comme un comportement est devenu de nos jours une maladie qui décime notre société et handicape le développement de nos pays. Il constitue le principal facteur de risque de maladie non-transmissible causant un nombre élevé de décès prématurés parmi les bras valides. De nouveaux modes de consommation du tabac ont vu le jour dans notre pays. Il s’agit de la chicha ou pipe à eau et de la cigarette électronique. Cette urbanisation entraîne une recrudescence du tabagisme chez les jeunes au Bénin. La prévalence du tabagisme tend à la hausse chez les jeunes donc adolescents. Le taux est passé de 2016 de 7 %... Le taux qui était de 5 % en 2009 est passé à 7 % en 2016. Cette prévalence chez les adultes a cependant baissé. C’était du 5 % en 2015... C’était donc du 16 % en 2016 est passé... 13 % en 2008 est passé à 5 % en 2016. Pour réduire la morbidité et la mortalité dues au tabagisme, le Bénin en marge de la ratification de la convention-cadre de l’OMS pour la lutte antitabac et du protocole pour éliminer le commerce illicite des produits du tabac a voté la loi n° 27-2017 du 18 décembre 2017 relative à la production, au conditionnement, à l’étiquetage, à la vente et à l’usage du tabac, ses dérivés et assimilés. Cette législation en conformité avec les directives de la convention-cadre a créé un office national de lutte contre le tabac dont la mission se résume à la mise en œuvre efficace et effective de ladite convention au Bénin. À travers l’exécution du plan national stratégique de lutte contre le tabagisme 2016-2020. Les défis majeurs de l’instant sont la lutte contre l’ingérence de l’industrie du tabac, la mise en œuvre imminente de l’office national de lutte contre le tabac doté d’une autonomie budgétaire, l’éradication de la chicha et de la cigarette électronique et l’insertion du sevrage tabagique dans les soins de santé. Je vous remercie Madame la Présidente.

THE PRESIDENT :

Thank you. I now request Zambia to take the floor.

ZAMBIA:

Thank you very much, Chairperson. We wish to congratulate you on being elected president of this distinguished Eighth Session of the Conference of Parties to the WHO FCTC. The tobacco epidemic is noticed to be rising in both low- and middle-income countries like Zambia, and the age group mostly affected are the young people. Our prevalence rates for both male and female youths in respect of tobacco smoking is at 25%, and it is projected that this figure is likely to rise in the coming years. As a country, through the implementation of the obligations espoused and outlined in the WHO FCTC, we are fully committed to addressing this challenge of youth tobacco consumption, and indeed, other equally important measures required to be implemented in the Convention. We thank the WHO FCTC Convention Secretariat for selecting Zambia to be part of the WHO FCTC 2030 project aimed at accelerating the

implementation of the WHO FCTC as part of the fulfilment of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal number 3.a. Through the WHO FCTC 2030 project, Zambia was the 50th Member State and Party to the Convention to undertake the joint needs assessment in November 2017. The findings of the joint needs assessment were disseminated in June 2018 by the Ministry of Health of Zambia and the WHO Convention Secretariat from Geneva, WHO African Region, UNDP New York, and the International Legal Consortium of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, including the American Cancer Society.

Following the joint needs assessment, the Zambian Government developed a present and forward-looking Tobacco and Nicotine Products Control Bill 2018, which is still undergoing stakeholder consultation. Enactment of the Tobacco and Nicotine Products Control Bill will lead to the domestication of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Considering the various national interests, linkages and multi-sectoral nature of tobacco control work and trajectory, we are applying the whole-of-government approach to health in our policies model in addressing measures and obligations under the WHO FCTC. This is with full acknowledgement of the roles of civil society organizations. Chairperson, we are also fully committed to the implementation of the Convention by giving priority to the protection of public health as stated in the first preambular paragraph of the Convention. Zambia is moving further in conducting a cost-benefit analysis of tobacco control interventions using the investment case model of the UNDP. With guidance from our Cabinet office, a regulatory impact assessment using the various stakeholders will also be done to further inform the development of the national tobacco control strategy. In conclusion, I wish to join all those progressive voices congratulating and commending the WHO Convention Secretariat for facilitating the coming into force of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products. We are resolved and fully committed to accede to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products as soon as possible. I thank you, Chairperson. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much, and thanks to all of you for sticking to our time limit. I now request Russia to kindly make their statement.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION:

Уважаемая госпожа Председатель, уважаемые коллеги, Российская Федерация приветствует Доклад Руководителя Секретариата Конвенции о глобальном прогрессе в осуществлении Рамочной Конвенции ВОЗ по борьбе против табака и, пользуясь случаем, хотела бы поблагодарить Руководителя Секретариата, доктора Веру Да Коста э Сильва и ее команду за успешную работу. Мы видим прогресс имплементации положений Конвенции в мире, что дает надежду на снижение бремени тяжелых заболеваний и смертности, ассоциированных с потреблением табака. Имплементация РКБТ, а также разработка и принятие дальнейших шагов, направленных на полную победу над табаком, - это абсолютно необходимый элемент для достижения Целей Устойчивого Развития. Мы также приветствуем вступление в силу Протокола о ликвидации незаконной торговли табачными изделиями. Борьба против табака направлена на реализацию права человека на здоровье, которое относится к важнейшим, неотъемлемым правам. Любые интересы коммерческого или промышленного характера должны быть подчинены цели защиты здоровья и благополучия населения. Необходимо уделять внимание новым средствам формирования никотиновой зависимости, которые особенно привлекательны для молодежи. Полагаем, что подход к защите здоровья людей должен быть универсальным и предусматривать единые правила по отношению ко всем изделиям,

вовлекающим человека в никотиновую зависимость, вне зависимости от того, каким образом доставляется никотин. Российская Федерация привержена интересам защиты общественного здоровья, реализовав в короткий период времени весь комплекс мер, предусмотренных Конвенцией. Это позволило снизить распространенность потребления табака в нашей стране среди взрослого населения более чем на 20%, а среди подростков – примерно в два раза. Российская Федерация намерена наращивать усилия в деле борьбы против табака. В нашей стране разработан Национальный проект укрепления общественного здоровья, который предусматривает принятие дополнительных антитабачных мер. Уважаемые коллеги, в заключение, хотелось бы еще раз поблагодарить Секретариат и Стороны Конвенции за конструктивную работу, а также пожелать всем нам конструктивного обсуждения вопросов повестки Восьмой Конференции Сторон. Спасибо.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Russia. I now invite Kuwait to make their country statement.

KUWAIT:

شكرًا سيدتي الرئيسة،

أود في البداية أن أعبر عن شكري للأمانة العامة للمؤتمر على حسن التنظيم ولكم شخصيًا على اختياركم كرئيسة للمؤتمر كما أود التهئة بالإنجاز الذي تم باسم كل الموجودين في القاعة وهو دخول الاتفاقية حيز التنفيذ، أبدأ كذلك بالتأكيد على ما جاء في البيان الذي أدلت به دولة قطر نيابةً عن إقليم شرق المتوسط.

سيدتي الرئيسة،

قبل أسبوعين تم التأكيد في أكبر منصة في الأمم المتحدة على أن التدخين يعتبر مفصلي في أي خطة للتصدي للأمراض المزمنة.

ويسعدني أنه في سياق هذا المؤتمر يربط ما بين التغيير المناخي ومكافحة التدخين. من المفيد أن نذكر أن في الكويت قانون مكافحة التدخين يتصدى لقضية التدخين في الأماكن العامة والمغلقة ويعاقب على حتى نفايات التدخين، وسعى لوضع ضوابط بيئية وإن وزارة الداخلية أصبح عندها إدارة تسمى إدارة البيئة التي من خلالها يتصدون للعديد من الأمور ومنها التصدي للتدخين في الأماكن العامة، وقد سُجّلت لدينا حالات لمن يستخدم أعقاب السجائر كوسيلة غير صحية على حد سواء.

كذلك هناك لجنة عليا لمكافحة التبغ متعددة القطاعات تشترك فيها العديد من الهيئات الحكومية والأهلية والقطاع الخاص.

الكويت ملتزمة بمجال الضريبة الانتقائية والضريبة الإضافية، ونتوقع في القريب العاجل أن ترى النور. من الأشياء التي أريد التركيز عليها أكبر بصفة استثنائية قضيتين: قضية السجارة الإلكترونية والحرارية والتي تعتبر الآن تحديًا من ضمن التحديات الموجودة التي ننظر لهذه المؤسسة كبيت خبرة يمكن أن يساعدنا في كشف الحقائق، واتخاذ أفضل السبل لحماية الشباب من الوقوع في مصيدة التدخين، كذلك لا بد من الإشارة إلى أن المبادرات المجتمعية ذات أثر فعال في منع التدخين وضمن مبادرة منظمة الصحة العالمية للمدن الصحية فإنه يسعدني أن أقول إن بعض المدن والأقاليم في المنطقة وعلى سبيل المثال محافظة الدرعية ومدينة الدرعية أصبحت خالية من التدخين سواء على التدخين أو على مستوى البيع والتداول هذه الأمور.

احنا نعتقد كذلك أن التنمية المستدامة جزء أصيل منها مكافحة التدخين وبكل أنواعه، ويسعدني أن أقول أن الكويت ليس فيها زراعة أو صناعة وأنه يتم التصديق حاليا حتى على تجارة التدخين.

أختم فأقول أن حكومة الكويت تبقى ملتزمة بالاتفاقية والبروتوكول وضمن أي تعاون عالمي لمكافحة التدخين.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. I now invite Democratic Republic of Congo to make their country statement.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO:

Madame la Présidente. Félicitations au nom de ma délégation pour votre élection à ce poste. Je remercie également le Secrétariat de la convention pour les efforts accomplis pour la tenue de la COP8. La République Démocratique du Congo donne ici quelques informations concernant la mise en œuvre de la convention-cadre et reconnaît le tabagisme comme étant un facteur de morbidité et de mortalité précoce. Nous avons à ce titre organisé en 2017, au mois de juillet, à l'occasion de la journée mondiale sans tabac, le premier symposium national qui regroupait tous les services et programmes du ministère de la Santé ayant un lien avec le tabagisme. Parce que le tabagisme est responsable de différentes maladies et en particulier de maladies non transmissibles. Ainsi, nous avons organisé ce premier symposium avec le programme du SIDA, de tuberculose, de santé buccodentaire, de maladies cardiovasculaires et, et cetera. Ceci a montré l'importance de pouvoir réduire sensiblement et de prendre ; de déployer des efforts pour réduire la consommation — du tabagisme — du tabac surtout parmi les jeunes. Ce symposium a été très apprécié et a donné la possibilité à différents services de pouvoir tirer des leçons sur la manière de conduire et de diagnostiquer ces maladies, sans lesquelles le traitement de ces maladies serait onéreux. Nous avons un problème de publication de cet important travail en attendant qu'une partie puisse aider la République du Congo à ce sujet. Nous avons le plaisir de pouvoir vous informer que la République Démocratique du Congo a adopté depuis le 17 mars 2018, un texte, une ordonnance portant sur l'augmentation des taxes, des droits d'accise sur le tabac qui s'élèvent aujourd'hui à plus de 60 % par rapport à l'année, à la situation antérieure qui était à 40 % et nous avons malheureusement un problème, c'est le trafic d'influence ou l'interférence de l'industrie du tabac qui fait traîner la loi, le projet de loi antitabac depuis 2006 que nous avons transformée maintenant en loi-cadre qui est entrée dans la loi-cadre de la santé publique et la loi-cadre de la santé publique n'est pas encore adoptée à cause de l'interférence de l'industrie qui vient miner n'est-ce pas les éléments importants contenus dans la loi-cadre et jusqu'ici cette loi n'est pas encore passée. Nous avons reçu un appui du Secrétariat de la convention à qui nous devons beaucoup de remerciements et de reconnaissances, mais nous ne sommes encore arrivés au bout de cette loi-là et les produits de tabac sans fumée comme d'autres délégations l'ont cité, c'est comme la chicha, la pipe à eau et d'autres eh bien sont en émergence dans la République démocratique du Congo et nous voulons absolument interdire sinon réunir suffisamment d'éléments scientifiques, n'est-ce pas, pour pouvoir justifier l'interdiction ou la réduction, mais les effets pour le moment et l'important, il est très consommé dans les alimentations, les supermarchés, dans les boîtes de nuit et, ou les jeunes et les jeunes filles en particulier sont vraiment adulés. Et nous avons besoin en République démocratique du Congo, parce que nous avons apprécié les centres de connaissance sur le tabac et nous avons besoin de pouvoir aussi ouvrir un centre de connaissances sur le tabac en République démocratique du Congo comme moyen qui nous permettra davantage d'informer, de sensibiliser les personnes sur les méfaits du tabac et de justifier nos revendications. Et nous sommes en train d'élaborer un projet qui cherche financement, c'est le projet concernant un protocole de recherche concernant l'association du tabagisme et tuberculose, nous savons que le tabagisme ou le tabac est réputé responsable dans le cadre de la résistance médicamenteuse dans le traitement de la tuberculose et l'avènement de la tuberculose résistante chez l'homme est une préoccupation pour mon pays. Nous sommes en train justement d'élaborer une étude dans ce sens et nous pensons qu'un appui qui viendrait d'une partie pourrait aider la République

du Congo à réaliser cette étude qui à mon sens sera vraiment importante et utile pour sauver des milliers de personnes qui sont concernées par la tuberculose et qui fument. Et nous pensons que nous nous arrêtons ici en disant merci au Secrétariat pour cette réunion importante. Qui va encore nous – apporter - renforcer nos pratiques dans la lutte antitabac. Je vous remercie.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Congo. Now we have Ukraine, Peru, Nepal, Turkey and Kiribati – these country statements to be made. We have requests for an additional three – Syria, Gabon and Sudan, so I think we will include these three too and then close the country statements with Sudan. And I am being partial, because my name also ends with Sudan [laughs]. I now invite Ukraine to make their country statement.

UKRAINE:

Dear Madam Chair, on behalf of the Minister of Health of Ukraine, I would like to thank the Convention Secretariat for the great work on the Global Progress Report. Also, I would like to thank for the needs assessment, which was conducted in Ukraine in 2017 with the Secretariat's support. The report developed on the assessment results is a significant basis for advocacy of further anti-tobacco initiatives in the country. It's a pleasure to state that in July this year, the Government of Ukraine adopted the national NCD action plan to achieve Sustainable Development Goals, part of which is FCTC. This document contains a separate part on tobacco control with a number of measures to ensure further progress in tobacco control. Within the last 10 years, Ukraine has made significant progress in the implementation of FCTC in terms of the adoption of smoke-free legislation, the banning of tobacco advertisement, sponsorship and promotion, and the introduction of pictorial warnings on cigarette packs. In 2017, the Government and Parliament adopted a seven-year plan for tobacco tax increases to reach the minimum European Union level. Based on the recent results of the Global Adult Tobacco Survey, the smoking prevalence among adults has decreased by 20% within the last 10 years. The Global Youth Tobacco Survey revealed a reduction in smoking prevalence among young people of more than 40% within the same period. At the same time, there are still issues to be addressed and which we are working on with the support of the WHO country office, international organizations and civil society. We are on the way to the ratification of the Illicit Trade Protocol, the adoption of important provisions of FCTC Articles 9, 11 and 13, and the implementation of the provisions of the European Union DPD Directive. Some urgent issues we would like to focus on are related to innovative tobacco products like e-cigarettes and heat-not-burn tobacco products. Those products are widely spread on the market and advertised aggressively but not regulated properly. It causes a lot of economic and public health challenges. We hope that decisions made in this Conference of Parties will contribute to the country initiatives and strengthen FCTC implementation. So, we wish all of us fruitful work during those days and thank you very much for your attention.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. I now request Peru to make their country statement.

PERU:

Muchas gracias, señora presidenta. Permítame iniciar esta intervención saludándola muy atentamente y haciendo extensivo este saludo a todas las delegaciones, y al mismo tiempo agradecer a la Secretaría del Convenio por la oportuna organización de esta conferencia. Señora presidenta, el Perú está convencido de la estrecha vinculación existente entre el Convenio Marco y la Agenda 2030 para el desarrollo sostenible, y constatamos una vez más que la consecución de los dos ODS es imprescindible aplicar un enfoque transversal e interconectado. No es posible mirar la Agenda 2030 desde un prisma de compartimientos estancos. Por ello, saludamos que el segmento de alto nivel se haya enfocado en el impacto ambiental del cultivo del tabaco y la fabricación de productos de tabaco. Sin duda, la evidencia existente respecto del grave impacto ambiental de estas actividades se une a la ya abrumadora evidencia de los efectos nocivos a la salud, lo que refuerza la necesidad de implementar plenamente las disposiciones del Convenio Marco, un instrumento pionero en la regulación de la salud pública global. El Perú está firmemente comprometido con la implementación del Convenio Marco, teniendo como interés superior la protección de la salud de las personas, entendida como un derecho humano. En esta línea, seguimos implementando medidas con el objetivo de reducir la demanda de productos de tabaco. Por ejemplo, en el Perú existe la prohibición completa de consumo de productos de tabaco en espacios públicos, como en muchos otros países. Hemos dado también importantes avances para aumentar las advertencias e información disponible sobre los riesgos a la salud y los nocivos efectos de consumo, y este año hemos aprobado un nuevo incremento al impuesto selectivo al consumo de cigarrillos, habiendo aumentado en un 61 % el precio de venta. Asimismo, el Gobierno está impulsando el debate en el Congreso de la República de un proyecto de ley dirigido a regular y prohibir la publicidad de cigarrillos. Todo esto va de la mano con campañas de prevención orientadas a evitar que jóvenes se inicien en el consumo de tabaco, y que aquellos adultos que ya lo hacen abandonen esta nociva práctica. Asimismo, en el corto plazo se dará inicio al programa nacional de cesación del tabaco, a ser implementado en los centros de salud mental comunitaria a nivel nacional. Sin embargo, aún queda un largo camino por recorrer. En este trayecto, los Estados debemos permanecer alerta a la interferencia de la industria tabacalera, y seguir priorizando la salud de nuestras poblaciones en el debate e implementación de las políticas públicas. Señora presidenta, la magnitud del reto hace que el esfuerzo nacional requiera de un indispensable respaldo de la cooperación técnica que ofrece la Secretaría. En este esfuerzo sostenido, valoramos debidamente, agradecemos y esperamos seguir contando con el apoyo del Secretariado en el fortalecimiento de las capacidades nacionales, elemento fundamental en la implementación del Convenio. Muchas gracias por su atención, señora presidenta.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Peru. I now request Nepal to take the floor.

NEPAL:

Madam Chair, we would like to thank the FCTC Secretariat, WHO, and the partners of the Bloomberg Initiative to reduce tobacco use for their meaningful support in tobacco control. Nepal has made significant progress in tobacco control policy and programmes. Nepal has banned the use of tobacco in all public places, workplaces and public transport. It is the only country in the Region that bans smoking in private rooms and private cars. Nepal has made remarkable progress in banning tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship comprehensively. It prohibits product display at the point of sale. Nepal is also a leader in implementing [graphic warnings] 90% on both sides of packs. A graphic health warning is also required in displays of smokeless tobacco products. We are also in a process to develop a regulation that mandates plain packaging. Nepal is also making progress to increase excise

tax in all types of tobacco products. It has also established a health fund that is used for tobacco control prevention and treatment programmes. Nepal has also faced several challenges from the tobacco industries, from the litigations of trade to individuals and the organizations working in tobacco control. However, Nepal has countered industrial interference successfully. The Nepal Government introduced comprehensive regulations that ban industrial interference in policy development and implementation. We have also realized that tobacco control should be integrated in various health programmes such as tuberculosis, maternal and child health programmes. Madam Chair, we are now in the SDG area, so tobacco control has a major role to achieve SDGs, thus Nepal strongly believes that there is a need to have an effective strategic plan at national, regional and global levels. The strategic plan should be with targets and with strong components of accountability. Every target should be costed and implemented. Nepal supports SEARO positions and the proposals. Thank you, Chair.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Nepal. Now I invite Turkey to take the floor.

TURKEY:

Thank you very much, Madam Chair, Secretariat and distinguished colleagues. Tobacco control has continued to be among the most important public health topics having outstanding political support in Turkey. New activities after COP7 are as the following. In line with the FCTC Article 20, Turkey has successfully implemented the third Global Youth Tobacco Survey recently. The outcomes of this nationwide survey are quite promising in terms of implementing comprehensively the FCTC, leading to a dramatic decrease in tobacco use, especially among the young population, which is an important target population of the tobacco industry. Another important development is the ratification of the protocol. The adverse effects of illicit tobacco products on public health, increasing the accessibility and affordability – in particular of young people – have particular importance. Considering the problem of smuggled cigarettes in the country and in the world, Turkey decided to go ahead with the process towards the ratification of the protocol. Turkey has ratified the protocol, being the 36th party, in December 2017, and we are committed to go ahead. Madam Chairperson, it is well-known that the reporting and exchange of information in line with the FCTC Article 21 is foremost important. Therefore, Turkey is among the parties that submit a comprehensive FCTC implementation report routinely. Such a good implementation has also been well highlighted with Turkey's example in good practices in data collection, preparation and submission of FCTC implementation report documents.

Moreover, in line with the FCTC Article 9 and 10, on the basis of the partial guidelines, Turkey has also regulated specific additives in tobacco products to decrease their attractiveness, particularly to adolescents. Turkey will ban menthol in cigarettes and hand-rolled tobacco at the manufacturer level as of January 2019, and the retail level as of May 2020. The ban applies to any quantity of menthol, including low levels in cigarettes that are not marketed as menthol cigarettes. Last but not least, another important control activity is the offering of cessation services to the ones who want to stop smoking. The costs of pharmaceutical products are fully covered by the Government in cessation clinics according to the approval of the physician. The above-mentioned activities have been frequently shared internationally. Upon request, Turkey is ready to give technical support. Finally, we want to underscore that all decisions taken via COP8 are important to implement FCTC provisions successfully countrywide as well as

worldwide. Having said that, we expect decisions via COP8 to increase the international collaboration and synergy in a constructive way, addressing FCTC principles by distinguished representatives of the FCTC parties. Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. I now request Kiribati to make their statement, and after Kiribati is Syria.

KIRIBATI:

Madam Chair, let me take this opportunity to thank you and the COP8 Secretariat for yesterday's deliberations, which were a success, and for today's. It is indeed an opportunity for a small country like Kiribati to take part in such deliberations. Kiribati has a high smoking rate compared to other Pacific island states. As shown in the NCD STEPS Survey 2004–2006, 58% of adults aged 25 to 64 years are current smokers, and 54.8% of adult daily smokers. In the second round of the NCD STEPS Survey 2015–2016, 48.9% of adults aged 18 to 69 years are current smokers, and 48% smoke daily. A higher percentage of tobacco smokers are males, and the average age of regular use was 17 years among males and 20 years among females. The slight reduction in tobacco use prevalence is not statistically significant overall, and Kiribati has among the highest smoking rates in the Pacific region and globally. According to the 2011 Global School-Based Health Survey, in Kiribati, 26.1% of students aged 13 to 15 years have smoked cigarettes on one or more days during the past 30 days. A majority of students first try smoking before the age of 14 years. Approximately 77.2% of students reported people smoking in their presence on one or more of the past seven days, one of the highest rates of exposure to second-hand smoke reported among youths aged 13 to 15 years in the Pacific. From a social perspective, many in Kiribati do not consider second-hand smoking as harmful as smoking. However, second-hand smoke – especially regular exposure – contributes to the development of NCDs. Given its detrimental effect on non-smokers and the positive impact of setting up smoke-free zones for the vulnerable, in particular pregnant women and young children, Kiribati is adopting WHO's recommendations and ways forward to enforce tobacco control interventions.

WHO has introduced the "best buys" interventions, which include very cost-effective tobacco control interventions such as the expansion of smoke-free public places, implementing graphic health warnings on tobacco products, and increased taxes on tobacco. These actions are evidence-based and highly recommended as a way forward to reduce smoking and to minimize the detrimental effects on tobacco users and those who live with smokers. Tobacco control is among the key strategies, as highlighted in the NCD roadmap, a collaborative, comprehensive approach to address the NCD crisis in the Pacific, which includes many of the recommended best buys. Enforcing the Tobacco Control Act and regulations is a crucial step to ensure that tobacco control interventions in Kiribati are well supported. To date, Kiribati has managed to undergo the following progress. First, carry out consolidations to increase support for increasing excise taxes on tobacco. Work with traditional leaders to continue to promote smoke-free public places. Amend legislation to require stronger health warnings on tobacco products. Working towards adopting the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products. Undertaking the second round of the Global Youth Tobacco Survey and, last but not least, ongoing interventions to promote the World No Tobacco Day, in which Kiribati has received the award this year. Kiribati will continue to implement cost-effective ways forward to improve and strengthen tobacco control in collaboration with multi-stakeholders to support this implementation. We will continue to work closely with development partners and donors to strengthen our in-country interventions. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Now I invite Syria to make their country statement. And after Syria will be Gabon.

SYRIA:

السيدة رئيسة المؤتمر

يود وفد الجمهورية العربية السورية التوجه بالتهنئة لك، والتمنيات بنجاح المؤتمر وأعماله خلال رئاستكم وتستطيعون ان تعولوا على دعم وفدي لرئاستكم.

بالرغم من ظروف الأزمة السورية وبالرغم من الظروف الصعبة التي يعيشها الشعب السوري بسببها، ولاسيما من آثار الإجراءات الأحادية القسرية المفروضة على سوريا وشعبها، ولايزال السوريون يمارسون حياتهم اليومية ويعملون ويصمدون بما يتوفر لهم قدر الإمكان.

وبما أن مكافحة التدخين ليست رفاهية، وإنما ضرورة صحية واقتصادية واجتماعية فقد اهتمت وزارة الصحة السورية بمكافحة التدخين وخاصة لدى الشباب الذين سنعتد عليهم في إعادة إعمار سورية، وكانت هناك عدة مبادرات منذ سنتين: نستقطب الشباب السوري في كل مراحل التعليم وخارج التعليم، ومنها مبادرة اسمها "فليكن منك التغيير" للشباب المتسربين من المدرسة وفي دور الأيتام والمهجرين قسراً من بيوتهم، ومبادرة أخرى اسمها "عزم وثبات ضد التدخين" للجامعات والمعاهد في سورية،

وحالياً نعمل على مدارس خالية من التدخين في المرحلة المتوسطة حيث تبدأ رغبة الاستكشاف لدى اليافعين ومحاولة تجربتهم للتدخين ونؤكد على ضرورة دعم الجهود الوطنية السابقة لدرء أخطار التدخين عن شبابنا، وخاصةً خلال هذه المرحلة الصعبة من قبل منظمات المجتمع الدولي وأمانة الاتفاقية الإطارية وشكراً لكم.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Now I invite Gabon to make their country statement.

GABON :

Madame la Présidente, le Gabon par ma voix tient à vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de nos travaux. Au Gabon, la culture du tabac est quasi inexistante, très peu de gens cultivent le tabac. La disponibilité de ce produit provient de l'importation et de la contrebande. La seule société Sociga qui détenait le monopole de la fabrication de la cigarette a fermé ses portes. En 2014, le programme national de lutte contre le tabagisme a réalisé une étude en milieu scolaire chez les jeunes de 13 à 15 ans. Celle-ci a montré une prévalence du tabac de 10,4 %. Il convient de noter que des progrès ont été réalisés dans la mise en œuvre de la convention-cadre de l'OMS pour la lutte antitabac. C'est ainsi que sur le plan juridique, le Gabon a pris une série de mesures qui modifient favorablement le contexte et la perception de la question du tabagisme dans le pays. D'abord en 2003, le Gabon entre dans le groupe des quarante premiers signataires de la convention-cadre de l'OMS. En 2009, il ratifie ladite convention qui entre en vigueur le 21 mai 2009. Le 21 août 2013 la loi portant instauration en faveur de la lutte antitabac en République gabonaise est votée et promulguée. Le 10 janvier 2013, le Gabon fait partie des 12 premiers pays au monde et le premier pays en Afrique qui signe le protocole pour l'élimination du commerce illicite des produits du tabac. Et en septembre 2014, le Gabon ratifie ce protocole. En 2016, il élabore un plan stratégique national de lutte antitabac pour la période 2016-2020. En mai 2016, le gouvernement adopte 5 décrets d'application de la loi antitabac. Il s'agit notamment du décret portant composition des modalités de fonctionnement de la commission

nationale de lutte contre le tabagisme, du décret portant modalité de conditionnement, d'étiquetage et des mesures d'avertissement sanitaire en République gabonaise, du décret portant interdiction de la publicité, du parrainage, du sponsoring du tabac et de ses produits dérivés en République gabonaise, du décret fixant les conditions d'application de l'interdiction de fumer du tabac dans les lieux affectés à l'usage collectif en République gabonaise, du décret portant interdiction de l'interférence de l'industrie du tabac dans les politiques de santé publique en République gabonaise. En janvier 2018, la loi des finances 2018 a été votée, et elle contient une disposition qui institue une taxe spécifique. Ainsi, nous avons un système de taxe mixte, c'est-à-dire une coexistence de la taxation ad valorem combinée à une taxation spécifique sur le tabac qui seront désormais appliquées. Sur un tout autre plan, la lutte antitabac doit surmonter ces difficultés qui transforment parfois les mesures prises par le gouvernement comme le tonneau des Danaïdes. C'est pourquoi le Gabon s'emploie à organiser diverses activités de formation, d'informations et de sensibilisation. Celles-ci ont été menées de concert avec la société civile et l'OMS dans les établissements scolaires, auprès des groupes cibles tels les jeunes, les professions des médias, les éducateurs, les hôtels, les parlementaires et la communauté sur les méfaits de la consommation et de l'exposition à la fumée du tabac. Au cours de ces activités, de nombreux outils et supports de plaidoyer, d'informations et de sensibilisation ont été produits et distribués. Dans ce contexte, les principales activités du plan national de lutte contre le tabagisme ont été les suivantes, la diffusion à la télé nationale d'un documentaire contenant des témoignages de médecins tels que des cardiologues, des oncologues, des gynécologues et neurologues fumeurs ou anciens fumeurs. La production de dépliants et d'affiches et d'une vidéo éducative sur les méfaits de la consommation d'alcool, de tabac et de drogues. Des ateliers de formation visant à sensibiliser les journalistes et les professionnels des médias aux effets nocifs du tabagisme sous l'égide des ONG *Agir pour le Gabon* et le *Mouvement populaire pour la santé Gabon*. La formation des élèves du secondaire aux méfaits de la consommation de la drogue et du tabac dispensée par des anciens formés, dépêchés dans des établissements d'enseignement secondaire depuis 2010. S'agissant du commerce illicite des produits du tabac, le pays fait face au commerce illicite des cigarettes et des produits du tabac, des systèmes de contrôle ont été mis en place afin de veiller au respect du code des douanes en matière d'importation de ces produits. Il n'existe toutefois pas de système de traçabilité du transport des produits du tabac. Le code des douanes contient des mesures relatives aux sanctions. Les produits du tabac illicites sont confisqués, mais ne sont pas systématiquement détruits. C'est aux tribunaux que revient la décision de les détruire ou non. Ce sont là autant d'actions qui témoignent de l'engagement fort et de la ferme volonté politique du pays à lutter contre le tabagisme. Par ailleurs, mon pays remercie l'OMS et le Secrétariat de la convention pour leur appui financier et technique dans la lutte antitabac. Pour terminer, je voudrais vous réitérer l'engagement du Gabon à ne ménager aucun effort en vue de la mise en œuvre de la convention-cadre de l'OMS et du protocole pour l'élimination du commerce illicite des produits du tabac. Je vous remercie.

THE PRESIDENT:

So now last but not the least, I invite Sudan to make their country statement.

SUDAN:

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

السودان يحيي المجتمعين ويشيد بسير الاتفاقية ويؤكد الالتزام بمخرجات الاجتماع، كما اسحووا لي أن أحيي السيدة رئيسة الجلسة وقد اقترن اسمها بالسودان فلها منا التحية والتجلة.

السودان بلد مساحته كبيرة وبه عدد من دول الجوار، وكل هذا يؤكد صعوبة المتابعة وانتشار التهريب لمنتجات التبغ، ومع ذلك السودان خطا خطى كبيرة في هذا المجال فقد أسس مكاتب لمكافحة التبغ في عدد 18 ولاية من ولايات السودان، وكذلك الآن قانون مكافحة التبغ أمام البرلمان السوداني بعد أن تمت إجازته من مجلس الوزراء هو الآن إن شاء الله سوف يرى النور قريبا ويُطبق.

أيضًا السودان به عدد 3 مصانع للتبغ، ولكن به عدد كبير من مواقع تجهيز التبناك، وهو مستخدم داخلي، وهذا المنتج يستخدمه عدد كبير جدًا من السودانيين، وكذلك أيضا الشيشة، ونحن نعمل الآن في إطار برنامج الصحة في جميع السياسات، هذا البرنامج الذي تتبناه الدولة، به نجمع ونوحد جهود الجميع من أجل الحد من انتشار التبغ.

وفي الأسابيع الماضية عقدت هيئة علماء المسلمين في السودان اجتماعًا مهمًا جدًا حددت فيه عدد من القوانين والإجراءات التي تُلحق عدد من العقوبات بتجار التبغ وملحقاته ومحاصرتهم في المجتمع، ووجد هذا الإجراء ارتياحًا كبيرًا في الوسط السوداني، كما أود أن أشيد بفرعية الاتفاقية بمنطقة شرق المتوسط ممثلة في الدكتورة فاطمة العوا التي تتابع إجراءات مكافحة التبغ في السودان بصورة لصيقة جدًا، وتُقدم لنا الدعم الفني والمعنوي والمادي وقد زارت السودان في عدة مرات في هذا العام.

الإحصاءات والدراسات تشير إلى تزايد استخدام التبغ في السودان، ولكن الجهود المبذولة للحد من ذلك وقد تزايد الانتشار وسط الشباب، وحتى المرأة رغم العادات والتقاليد السودانية التي تمنع ذلك، وقد أسست عدد من دور الإقلاع عن التبغ في العاصمة القومية وتجري الآن الإجراءات لتوسيعها في الولايات الأخرى.

أيضًا هناك زيادة في ضرائب التبغ بصورة كبيرة في السودان، وإن شاء الله في ميزانية العام المقبل أيضًا تكون هناك زيادة كبيرة أيضًا، نتمنى لكم مداولات ومفيدة للبشرية جمعاء ونؤكد التزام السودان في مكافحة التبغ وكل مخرجات هذا الاجتماع وشكرًا جزيلاً.

THE PRESIDENT:

I thank all the parties for their active participation. I will now like to invite and give the floor to the State non-Parties. So, I invite Switzerland, and after Switzerland, it's USA. Switzerland, please.

SWITZERLAND :

Madame la Présidente, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, la Suisse attache une grande attention à la prévention des méfaits du tabac et se réjouit de pouvoir suivre, même si ce n'est qu'à titre d'observateur, les débats de cette huitième COP. Selon nos estimations, le tabagisme cause en Suisse près de 9500 décès par an dont 42 % liés à des cancers, 39 % à des maladies cardiovasculaires et 15 % à des maladies des voies respiratoires. La consommation de tabac représente ainsi la première cause évitable de décès en Suisse. Concernant la convention-cadre de l'OMS pour la lutte antitabac, nous souhaitons rappeler que la Suisse l'a signée et que sa ratification demeure un objectif dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de la stratégie nationale de prévention des maladies non transmissibles. Conformément à une pratique établie, la Suisse ne ratifie toutefois une convention internationale qu'après avoir adapté sa législation nationale. Aujourd'hui, le droit suisse satisfait à de nombreuses exigences de la convention, notamment en matière de protection contre la fumée passive, d'imposition ou d'avertissement pictographique sur les paquets de cigarettes. Des adaptations sont toutefois nécessaires dans le domaine de la réglementation de la publicité, de la promotion et du parrainage, ainsi que de l'interdiction de la vente de produits du tabac aux mineurs. En 2015, le gouvernement suisse a élaboré un premier projet de loi nationale sur les produits du tabac qui prévoyait une interdiction de vente aux mineurs ainsi qu'une réglementation plus stricte de la publicité, de la promotion et du parrainage afin de permettre la ratification de la convention. Toutefois, le parlement a

rejeté ce projet en décembre 2016 et l'a renvoyé au conseil fédéral afin de reformuler la loi en incluant l'interdiction de vente aux mineurs, mais en excluant toute nouvelle restriction à la publicité, à la promotion et au parrainage. Un nouveau projet de loi a donc été rédigé dans ce sens bien qu'il ne réponde pas aux exigences de base de la convention. Ce projet sera soumis au parlement à la fin de l'année. Après l'adoption de la loi, le conseil fédéral réexaminera si les conditions pour une ratification de la convention sont remplies. Nous regrettons de ne pouvoir vous donner à l'heure actuelle de plus amples précisions quant à notre projet de loi et à nos perspectives de ratification. Nous tenons toutefois à mentionner que plusieurs cantons ont introduit des réglementations plus strictes sur la publicité. Si tous les cantons font de même, les restrictions en matière de publicité pourraient donc devenir une réalité en Suisse à travers une législation cantonale. Par ailleurs, une initiative populaire nationale pour la protection des enfants et des jeunes contre la publicité pour le tabac a été lancée récemment. Son objectif est d'introduire dans la constitution suisse une interdiction de toute publicité du tabac qui cible les enfants et les jeunes.

Nous vous souhaitons des débats fructueux au cours des prochains jours et nous réjouissons d'y assister. Je vous remercie.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Switzerland. I now request USA to make their statement.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The United States appreciates the opportunity to attend this Eighth Conference of Parties as an observer and welcomes the efforts of the Secretariat and parties to reduce the preventable toll of tobacco use. While the United States has made considerable progress in reducing cigarette smoking rates, the prevalence of smoking and the use of other tobacco products remains unacceptably high. Tobacco use remains the single largest preventable cause of disease and death in the United States, resulting in the deaths of more than 480 000 people each year. For every person who dies this year from smoking, over 30 Americans are living with smoking-related disease. The United States is taking important actions to curb these preventable deaths and to prevent tobacco use, especially among youth. Because despite promising declines in tobacco use overall, far too many young people continue to use tobacco products, including e-cigarettes. Data show that not only are youth increasingly using newer tobacco products like e-cigarettes, but many fail to recognize that they contain nicotine. Last year, the US Food and Drug Administration announced a comprehensive tobacco and nicotine regulatory strategy that places nicotine and the issue of addiction at the centre of the agency's tobacco regulation efforts. In addition, we are taking significant steps to prevent youth access to all forms of tobacco products, curb marketing aimed at youth, and educate the public, including teens and their families, about the dangers to their health of using these products, including e-cigarettes. Science-based public health campaigns bring to life the impact of tobacco use and tobacco-related disease, and our States and communities are also taking action. For example, a recent study by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention found that the number of smoke- or tobacco-free college and university campuses more than doubled between 2012 and 2017, fostering healthier environments to live, work and learn. The United States appreciates the efforts by the Secretariat, parties and the international partners to accelerate action to meet the voluntary global targets on reducing tobacco-related death, including through implementing evidence-based approaches like the FCTC provisions. We look forward to continued collaboration to support achieving our shared goals for health and wellbeing.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, USA. Under Rule 31.4, I now give the floor to NGO observer to the COP8, the Framework Convention Alliance on Tobacco Control. You have the floor.

FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ALLIANCE:

Your excellencies, honourable delegates, Madam Chair, dear colleagues. *Mesdames et Messieurs*, thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the plenary. My name is Nonguebzanga Maxime Compaore, and I'm making a statement on behalf of the delegation for the Framework Convention Alliance on Tobacco Control. It is only fitting that we find ourselves in Geneva again today, 15 years after the World Health Assembly adopted the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Some of my colleagues even had the privilege of participating in that meeting and all following sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the FCTC. We are looking back on years of great progress. Millions of lives have been saved through tobacco control measures the parties of the FCTC have implemented during these 15 years. Today, however, we find ourselves at a crossroads. We no longer look at the tobacco epidemic and ask ourselves: "What can be done?". This question has been thoroughly answered by the FCTC and its guidelines, and in case anyone should ever forget these answers, they can pick up the phone, call the FCTC Secretariat, and be advised by a team of experts on what they are supposed to be doing. However, we also need to be honest with ourselves. We need to recognize that the time has come to be more ambitious and more strategic. Tobacco use is still expected to rise in many parts of the world in the absence of concerted strategic efforts to accelerate tobacco control measures enshrined in the Convention. This is why the FCA welcomes the Global Strategy to Accelerate Tobacco Control and calls on all parties to prioritize it in the meeting. We are convinced that if the COP adopts the global strategy before it, it would help to enable better FCTC implementation and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal on health and its targets 3.4 and 3.a. The Strategy, once adopted, will advance a set of priority multisectoral measures that are proven to have the highest impact on reducing tobacco use, will streamline international cooperation on tobacco control, and will support fundraising for tobacco control at domestic and global levels. In order to make this vision a reality, the COP will have to adopt this Strategy and consider how to translate it into action. In particular, it will be necessary to adapt the workplan and budget for the next biennium so that it reflects the priorities of the Global Strategy. I would like to thank you again for this opportunity. On behalf of civil society observers, I wish you a successful meeting and offer you all full support to make COP8 the most successful COP session yet.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. We've had five regional statements, 36 country statements, two non-party and one NGO observer statements. I thank all the esteemed delegates for their involved participation. With the statement of the NGO observer, I close Agenda [item] 5, the general debate. The plenary session is closed. I now invite Committee A to start its work in this room. Thank you all.

**The meeting rose at 18:00
FOURTH PLENARY**

Wednesday 03 October 2019 at 15:00

12. CREDENTIALS OF PARTICIPANTS (ITEM 1.2.)

THE PRESIDENT:

Good afternoon, kindly be seated. So good afternoon, dear colleagues and I must thank you for your involved participation in the work of Committee A and B. I know a lot of hard work is being put to make sure that we proceed in a manner that makes this COP effective. So basically, today in this special session, we have gathered together to discuss the credentials of the participants. We shall consider in this Plenary the Report on Credentials, which is contained in the document FCTC/COP/8/2. English copies are available at the documentation counter. The draft conditions contained in the annex of the document has been prepared in accordance with Rule 19 of the Rules of Procedure. The credentials of the representatives of the Parties listed in the annex were found to be in conformity with the Rules of the Procedure. It is therefore proposed that the Conference of Parties accept the credentials of those Parties. In addition, the Bureau examined the credentials received from Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam and Zambia, which could not be considered as valid credentials because they are incomplete or not yet submitted to the Convention Secretariat. It is therefore recommended that the Conference of Parties, it is recommended to this COP that the representatives of the following Parties be entitled to participate provisionally in the sessions with all rights in the Conference pending arrival of their formal and complete credentials. If there is any objective to adopting the draft decision before you, you may kindly say so. Yes, Philippines?

THE PHILIPPINES:

Thank you, Madam President. We note that the name of the country Philippines is on the list of those pending submissions. However, after checking with the Secretariat, I think it has been found that this is one credential of one delegate that was actually submitted by the Philippines delegation. So, we will locate the received copy and once we submitted it, we ask that the Secretariat redraft the resolution to make sure, just to clear that the Philippines delegation credentials are complete. Thank you, Madam Chair.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, I request the Secretariat to kindly clarify on what the Philippines has just said.

THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Thank you very much, distinguished representative of the Philippines. Yes, I have been informed that your delegation has approached the Secretariat and submitted complimentary information. This information will be submitted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure to the Bureau and then the Bureau will examine it and determine whether this allows for the credentials to be complete, in compliance with the Rules of Procedure. Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Sri Lanka.

SRI LANKA:

Yes, I heard that our credentials is not accepted. We will take action to send the correct credentials. Can we know what is the problem with the credentials?

THE PRESIDENT:

About Sri Lanka, will you kindly let them know?

THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT:

Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. If I may ask the distinguished representative of Sri Lanka to approach my colleague, here, she will be able to provide you will all the details of the particular case of Sri Lanka to make sure that this issue is resolved as soon as possible. Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson.

THE PRESIDENT:

Anybody else? So, I see no further objections. Therefore, it is so decided that we accept this decision.

[Applause]

I wish to again reiterate the delegations from the Parties not listed on the decision may, however, continue to participate in the Conference. Should this happen, they will be seated provisionally with all rights in accordance with Rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure. Once they have submitted formal credentials, you will be informed. Before I conclude, I would like to put on record the enormous work that the Convention Secretariat has done last night. I don't think they would have had a wink of sleep in preparing these documents because we had told this Conference of Parties on the first day that we will meet on Wednesday to submit the credentials so they had a very tight timelines, so I thank you on behalf of all us present here. And you really deserve an applause.

[Applause]

Before I invite the delegates to attend our Committees, is there anything else anybody would like to propose or say? No? Maldives have indicated that they would like to propose something so if they are here. Okay, so thank you very much and we conclude the session, and I'd like to invite the delegates wishing to attend Committee B to proceed to room number 2 and Committee A remains here. Thank you and good afternoon.

FIFTH PLENARY

Saturday, 06 October 2018 at 10:00

13. ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL REPORT OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (ITEM 11)

THE PRESIDENT:

Excellencies, let's begin. So, excellencies, honourable ministers, Bureau members, distinguished delegates, members of the civil society, ladies and gentlemen. Already, good morning. We are here 148 parties, six non-parties, four IGOs, 13 NGOs and more than 1200 delegates. And this has indeed been an ungendered COP. COP President, Head of the Secretariat, Chairperson of two Committees and, I learn, six regional advisers are all women. Thank you for reposing your confidence in us.

[Applause]

Someone asked me whether it was by design. I said, no it wasn't. The COP is really ungendered on its own. The agenda of COP 8 contained 31 items, including closure of the session. Eight items were discussed in Committee A, and 12 were discussed in Committee B. Eleven items were considered in the Plenary. Delegates, we spent 28 hours deliberating in Committee A. You can add another one-and-a-half hours now, and 28 hours in Committee B. Whereas Plenary occupied a bit less than 10 hours. In total, we deliberated for more than 66 hours, and we are not done yet. This morning, we shall consider the reports of Committee A and B, followed by Agenda Item number 9, which is the date and place of the ninth regular session of COP9. Agenda Item number 10, which is election of the President and Vice-President of the COP, adoption of the provisional report of the Seventh Session of the COP and Agenda Item number 12, which is the closure. Now, without any delay, and since we have a short Plenary, and I must remind you that after 1 p.m., translation will not be available so we must try to hurry up. Since Committee A has just finished, I would first invite Committee B and Dr Nuntavarn Vichit-Vadakan, Chair of Committee B, to present the reports. The floor is yours.

COMMITTEE B CHAIR :

Thank you, Madam President. It was a pleasure to Chair Committee B. We would like to report that we have 10 decisions, among many achievements [as] we move forward on approval of a workplan and budget, that is reflective of the strategies and priorities as laid out in the MTSF. We have recognized the importance of the MTSF through its funding, maximizing transparency, hosting arrangements. We recognized the collective willingness of Parties to work together in arriving at consensus. Thank you for your support and for those of you not staying for the MOP1 may I wish you safe travel home. Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT:

Are there any comments to the report of Committee B? The reports of Committee B are contained in the document draft FCTC/COP 8/B/R 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Any comments on the reports? There appears to be none. And I take it that reports of Committee B are therefore approved. The assertions contained are therefore adopted.

[*Applause*]

I would now like to invite Chair of Committee A to present us the report. Dr Kavita Singh from Guyana, you have the floor.

COMMITTEE A CHAIR:

Thank you very much, Madam President, for giving me the floor, and it is indeed my pleasure to report this Plenary session under the sessions for Committee A for adoption by the Conference of the Parties. First let me do say words of thanks for the support that I would have received from the distinguished delegates as well as the Convention Secretariat. As was mentioned by the President, the draft reports of Committee A contained eight decisions proposed for adoption by the Conference of Parties. The first decision is entitled “Protocol for the entry into force to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products”. The second decision is titled, “Measures to strengthen implementation of the Convention, true coordination and cooperation”. The third decision is entitled, “Tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship: depiction of tabaco in the entertainment media”. The fourth decision, “Protection of public health policies with respect to tobacco control from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry”. The fifth decision entitled “Implementation of Articles 17 and 18: alternative livelihoods and protection of the environment”. The sixth decision is that of “Tobacco control in complex emergency situations.” The seventh decision is entitled, “Implementation of Articles 9 and 10 of the WHO FCTC: regulation of contents and the disclosure of tobacco products including water pipes, smokeless tobacco and heated tobacco products.” The eighth decision is entitled, “Novel and emerging tobacco products”, with the editorial amendment, as was discussed on advice by Committee A this morning. I commanded these proposed decisions to the Plenary, and it was indeed a pleasure to serve as a Chair of Committee A. Thank you very much, Madam President.

[*Applause*]

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Thank you, Dr Kavita Singh. So, are there any comments to the reports of Committee A? They are contained in the document, in the draft document of FCTC/COP/8/AR1, R2 and R3. Any comments? So none? If this is the case, then the report of Committee A is therefore approved and the decisions contained therein are therefore adopted.

[*Applause*]

I think Honduras wants to make a statement. I am sorry, you raised your flag a little late but you are free to make the statement.

HONDURAS:

Gracias, señora presidenta. Solamente para el récord, así como lo hicimos en la sesión del Comité A con respecto al 7.1 y en virtud de la forma que la decisión fue tomada, por ende Honduras no apoya el consenso de ese punto del orden del día 7.1 ni su decisión. Así como lo hicimos constar en la Comisión A y su récord, lo hacemos constar en esta sesión plenaria. Gracias, presidenta.

14. ELECTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE COP (ITEM 10)

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Honduras. We have taken note of your dissent and it will be recorded in our records, in the official records. Thank you. Now we move to the next Agenda Item, which is item number 10. To elect members, which will constitute the next Bureau of the Conference. According to Rule 21 of the Rules of the Procedures of COP, the COP shall elect a President, five Vice-Presidents, one of whom shall act as a Rapporteur. I am taking 10 before 9, so I think we will go ahead with 10 now and then come back to Agenda Item number 9. The officers shall be elected from among the representatives of the Parties at the session; each WHO region shall be represented by one member. I would like to propose the following to be elected as officers of the Bureau of the next COP. Mr Vincent Kumako from Togo for the African Region. Dr Reina Roa from Panama for the Region of Americas, Mr Valizadeh from Iran for the Eastern Mediterranean, Mr Gert Jan Rietveld from the Netherlands for the European Region. Dr Thar Tun Kyaw from Myanmar for the South-East Asian Region. Dr Sun Jin, China, from the China, West[ern] Pacific Region. Any objections to these proposals? I see none, so it's so decided.

[Applause]

And my heartiest congratulations to the new Bureau on behalf of the present Bureau also. We have had a very, I would say, informative, effective and harmonious COP and Bureau meetings. I wish the same will continue in the next Bureau also. Please join me in congratulating the new officers of the Conference of Parties.

[Applause]

The order in which the Vice-Presidents will serve as President in the event that the President is not able to serve will be drawn by lots. The name of the five Vice-Presidents have to be written down on five separate pieces of paper, and I will then be doing a draw. So, Mr Gert Jan Rietveld from the Netherlands of the European Region.

[Applause]

Second is Dr Thar Tun Kyaw from Myanmar from the South-East Asian Region.

[Applause]

Then, Dr Kumako from Togo for the African Region.

[Applause]

This is a very pleasing task. Then, Dr Sun Jin, from China for the Western Pacific Region.

[Applause]

Last but not the least, Dr Reina Roa from Panama for the Region of the Americas.

[Applause]

I now draw another lot to designate the officer who has to act as a Rapporteur. Shake it well!
[*Laughter*]

Dr Reina Roa from Panama for the Region of the Americas.
Our present Bureau Member also. So, thank you and congratulations to all of you.

[*Applause*]

15. DATES AND PLACE OF THE NINTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (ITEM 9)

I now turn to Agenda Item number 9, which is very important. The date and time, the date and place of the ninth regular session of the COP. According to Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the COP, the COP shall decide on the date and location on the next regular session. Also, according to Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the COP, the sessions of the COP shall be held at the seat of the Secretariat unless the Conference decides otherwise. I am giving the floor to EU to make an announcement. You have the floor, thank you.

EUROPEAN UNION:

Thank you very much, Madam Chair. We are very proud that one of our Member States wants to welcome you all to COP9 in Europe, and I would like to give the floor to the Netherlands to explain.

THE NETHERLANDS:

Madam President, thank you and also the EU for giving me the floor. In September, the Netherlands has informed the Convention Secretariat and the Bureau that the Netherlands is interested in hosting the ninth Conference of the Parties in the Netherlands. As our State Secretary for Health said on Monday, we are very committed to FCTC because we know it's the driving force in our joint global work in the field of tobacco control. This week here in Geneva has shown us again what we can achieve if we work together. Madam President, colleagues and friends, the Netherlands has good facilities for hosting the ninth Conference of the Parties, we have a committed Government, very motivated experts in tobacco control and a great civil society that helps us in our important work. If the COP agrees, we are pleased and honoured to welcome you all for the next COP in 2020 in the Netherlands. Thank you.

[*Applause*]

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Netherlands. Is the proposal from Netherlands to host COP9 agreeable for the COP8, for this COP?

I see no objection. It is so decided.

[*Applause*]

Yes, Uruguay.

URUGUAY:

Muchas gracias, señora presidenta. Uruguay quisiera hacer esta intervención a título de la Región de las Américas. Nuestra Región informa la propuesta de la República de Paraguay para acoger a la décima Conferencia de las Partes del Convenio Marco de la Organización Mundial de la Salud para el control del tabaco y al tercer período de sesiones de la reunión del Protocolo para la eliminación del comercio ilícito de productos de tabaco, y la saluda, considerando que la misma es la expresión del compromiso de la República del Paraguay de mejorar sus políticas públicas en materia del control del tabaco, y acompañar los avances de una región con importantes logros conforme a los compromisos adoptados como Estado Parte en el Convenio Marco de la OMS para el control del tabaco. Teniendo en cuenta que Países Bajos albergará la COP9, se ha decidido respaldar a Paraguay en el interés manifestado para ser anfitrión de la pre-COP9 y de la COP10 en el entendido de que esta última decisión deberá ser tomada durante la COP9 según el reglamento. La organización de la pre-COP9 y de la COP10 en nuestra región tendrá un impacto político positivo para impulsar firmemente la agenda para la implementación del Convenio Marco de la OMS para el control del tabaco y hacia la eliminación del comercio ilícito de productos de tabaco que incluya la ratificación de dicho protocolo y su implementación. Esperamos contar con el apoyo de todas las Regiones para que, luego de 12 años, la Región de las Américas vuelva a acoger la Conferencia de las Partes. Muchas gracias.

[Applause]

THE PRESIDENT:

I believe this COP is very fortunate in the Parties showing interest in hosting COP. The interest is noted and will be considered in COP. Thank you. So, now we move to Agenda Item number 11, adoption of the provisional report of COP. This is the document FCTC/COP/8/26. Before I go further, I just noticed that Iran wants to say something. Yes, please Dr Valizadeh.

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Sorry to interrupt your floor, which is at the speed of 120 miles per hour, but I just want to know that if you have announced the presidency of the COP9 or will it come later because we didn't hear that from you, thank you.

THE PRESIDENT:

I was leaving the best thing to the last.

[Laughter]

Adoption of the Provisional report of the Eighth session of the COP (item 11)

So, I will take it up after Agenda Item number 11, if you will allow. So, I was referring to Document FCTC/COP/8/26. A few details, the cut-off time of this report was Thursday, 6:00 p.m. Therefore, the document in front of us reflects the meetings of this session until and including the afternoon meetings of Thursday up to 6:00 p.m. The remaining proceedings will be included in a revised final version of this provisional report that will be made available to the parties for corrections, for a period of 15 days starting [seems like something missing]. I hope we can agree that we shall mandate the Secretariat to finalize the report. The provisional

report that will be made available to the Parties on a protected website and information to access this protected website will also be provided by the Secretariat to the Parties. May I take that we agree to adopt this provisional report?

[Pause]

There is no objection. We all agree. Thank you.

[Applause]

Ecuador wants to say something. Welcome.

ECUADOR:

Gracias, señora presidenta. Ecuador está de acuerdo con la propuesta de informe. Sin embargo, quisiéramos pedir que se incorpore en la redacción un resumen detallado de la discusión del punto del orden del día que no fue aprobado en la Comisión A respecto a la promoción de derechos humanos en el CMCT a fin de asegurar su discusión en la novena Conferencia de las Partes. Muchas gracias.

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, Ecuador. What you have said has been taken note of. Now, as I said, we come to – OK, Niger also wants to say something. Yes, Niger? You have the floor, Niger.

NIGER:

Non, ça va, c'est bon.

THE PRESIDENT:

Right, as I was saying, now we come to a very pleasant item and which is; the Chinese want to say something. Yes, China, you have the floor.

CHINA:

谢谢主席女士，我们非常感谢荷兰代表团提出来愿意承接下一次的缔约方会议，但是我們希望能够提醒注意一下，因为 10 月 1 号到 7 号就是我们 COP 这个会议，是中国最大的节日（国庆节），中国代表团有 20 位成员，为了 COP 8 放弃了我们一周的休假，所以我們希望在荷兰在考虑会期的时候尽量避开 10 月 1 号到 7 号以及中国的春节（2 月中旬）。谢谢。

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you for those inputs and I am sure Netherlands will take note of this very, very important item.

[Pause]

Any other party wanting to intervene? Yes, Kenya.

16. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION (ITEM 12)

KENYA:

Madam President, Kenya would like to take this opportunity for the success of COP8 and to thank the Secretariat for the work that they have done to ensure the success of this meeting. We would also like to appreciate the Chairs of Committee A and B and all the delegates for the achievements made so far. We would also like to congratulate the Bureau Members and also thank Netherlands for hosting COP9, and we look forward to participating in COP9. We thank the progress that has been made here, particularly in regards to combatting interference by tobacco industry and also towards the understanding and addressing tobacco, the novel and emerging tobacco products which are really becoming a problem in our Region, so we thank you and congratulations for the good things you have done in COP8. Thank you.

[Applause]

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, thank you very much. Yes, SEAR wants to say something.

SEAR:

Thank you, Madam President. I, on behalf of the SEAR Region, would like to present a word of thanks. While I do that I would also like to point out really some important missives and achievements that we have been able to take forward during this week. We came here with much enthusiasm to contribute and enrich the Eighth Session of the Conference of Parties. We are delighted that two of our Parties – India and Thailand – had the privilege of lending leadership to this Conference body, serving as the President of the COP and the Chair of Committee B, respectively. This week, the COP has made many historic decisions. Adoption of the Medium-term Strategic Framework we believe shall go a long way in prioritizing agenda and resources and implementation of WHO FCTC, and will provide a useful guidance for mid-course correction – if required – through the IFM. We are sure that the Convention Secretariat will look for extraneous sources for the implementation of the proposed MTSF pilots and the intersessional period up to COP9. We welcome the offered findings, sustainable finances to implement the Convention, including the concept of establishing the WHO Investment Fund.

As regards the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, some Parties have already adopted the Protocol, while a few other are in advanced stages of ratifying the Protocol. We are hoping that all the FCTC Parties will take assertive force to this regard. We are encouraged by the strong support of the implementation of Article 5 and 3 of the Convention, and the spirit of transparency as reflected in the decision that this COP proceedings be web-casted and to adopt measures for maximizing transparency for all stakeholders in the WHO FCTC meetings. We hope all Parties will take the decision home through policy coherence and in the multisectoral implementation of the Convention and protect the public health policy in respect to tobacco control from commercial and other vested interests. We look forward to the acceleration and the development of guidelines to address cross-border advertising, promotion and sponsorship, as well as the depiction of tobacco in the entertainment media, by the working group mandated to undertake this work. We will be contributing towards the work of this group.

We welcome the setting up of a new expert group regarding Article 9 and 10 of the Convention. We hope that within its agreed mandate, the group will specifically examine challenges in the implementation of these articles to smokeless tobacco and that affects our regions significantly. We are sure that the Parties would strive towards the inclusion of women in the policy-making and control. We are also happy to note that the Parties have collectively resolved to promote multisectorial action towards mitigating environment damage caused by tobacco, as well as encouraging tobacco growers and workers to switch to other alternative viable livelihoods. On institutional matters, the COP discussions of this session have led to constructive progress to strengthen the hands of the Convention Secretariat, for discussing the treaty hosting arrangements for the WHO Secretariat. We thank the President, all the Bureau Members, RCs, both the current and the new Parties to the Convention, Netherlands for extending the invitation for hosting the COP9, the staff at the Convention Secretariat. All the delegates and interpreters, thank you so much.

[*Applause*]

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, thank you, thank you, SEAR and India for summarizing the entire work done in this past week. It is a good summing up. Now, since I have conducted the proceedings at great speed, it gives us time for other Parties to make interventions. I have on my list Russia, Kuwait, Turkey, Nigeria, Uruguay and Eswatini, so I request Russia to take the floor now.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION:

Уважаемая госпожа Председатель, Российской Федерации хотелось бы поздравить всех участников, всех делегатов с таким благополучным и блестящим завершением нашей сессии конференции сторон, понять и призвать всех также продуктивно работать в межсессионный промежуток и надеяться, что на следующей сессии конференции сторон у нас будут такие же блестящие и такие же принятые в духе консенсуса решения. Уважаемая госпожа Председатель, если позволите, у меня достаточно маленький вопрос: мы действительно очень быстро шли по всем документам, мы обнаружили некую неточность в переводе российского документа по Комитету А. Возможно ли... как нам решить этот вопрос? Возможно ли нам написать просто письмо в секретариат о том, что необходимо внести эти изменения, или мы можем озвучить сейчас о том, что есть изменения по переводам?

THE PRESIDENT:

I request you to please send a note, thank you.

RUSSIA:

Благодарю Вас, госпожа Председатель.

THE PRESIDENT:

Now I request Kuwait to take the floor.

KUWAIT:

شكرًا سيدتي الرئيسة،

أود في البداية أن أعبر عن شكري للأمانة العامة للمؤتمر على حسن التنظيم ولكم شخصيًا على اختياركم كرئيسة للمؤتمر كما أود التهئة بالإنجاز الذي تم باسم كل الموجودين في القاعة وهو دخول الاتفاقية حيز التنفيذ، أبدأ كذلك بالتأكيد على ما جاء في البيان الذي أدلت به دولة قطر نيابةً عن إقليم شرق المتوسط.

سيدتي الرئيسة،

قبل أسبوعين تم التأكيد في أكبر منصة في الأمم المتحدة على أن التدخين يعتبر مفصلي في أي خطة للتصدي للأمراض المزمنة.

ويسعدني أنه في سياق هذا المؤتمر يربط ما بين التغيير المناخي ومكافحة التدخين. من المفيد أن نذكر أن في الكويت قانون مكافحة التدخين يتصدى لقضية التدخين في الأماكن العامة والمغلقة ويعاقب على حتى نفايات التدخين، وسعى لوضع ضوابط بيئية وإن وزارة الداخلية أصبح عندها إدارة تسمى إدارة البيئة التي من خلالها يتصدون للعديد من الأمور ومنها التصدي للتدخين في الأماكن العامة، وقد سُجّلت لدينا حالات لمن يستخدم أعقاب السجائر كوسيلة غير صحية على حد سواء.

كذلك هناك لجنة عليا لمكافحة التبغ متعددة القطاعات تشترك فيها العديد من الهيئات الحكومية والأهلية والقطاع الخاص.

الكويت ملتزمة بمجال الضريبة الانتقائية والضريبة الإضافية، ونتوقع في القريب العاجل أن ترى النور. من الأشياء التي أريد التركيز عليها أكبر بصفة استثنائية قضيتين: قضية السجارة الإلكترونية والحرارية والتي تعتبر الآن تحديًا من ضمن التحديات الموجودة التي ننظر لهذه المؤسسة كبيت خبرة يمكن أن يساعدنا في كشف الحقائق، واتخاذ أفضل السبل لحماية الشباب من الوقوع في مصيدة التدخين، كذلك لأبد من الإشارة إلى أن المبادرات المجتمعية ذات أثر فعال في منع التدخين وضمن مبادرة منظمة الصحة العالمية للمدن الصحية فإنه يسعدني أن أقول إن بعض المدن والأقاليم في المنطقة وعلى سبيل المثال محافظة الدرعية ومدينة الدرعية أصبحت خالية من التدخين سواء على مستوى التدخين أو على مستوى البيع والتداول هذه الأمور.

أنا نعتقد كذلك أن التنمية المستدامة جزء أصيل منها مكافحة التدخين وبكل أنواعه، ويسعدني أن أقول أن الكويت ليس فيها زراعة أو صناعة وأنه يتم التضييق حاليًا حتى على تجارة التدخين.

أختم فأقول أن حكومة الكويت تبقى ملتزمة بالاتفاقية والبروتوكول وضمن أي تعاون عالمي لمكافحة التدخين.

شكرًا سيدتي الرئيسة

[Applause]

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much, EMR and Kuwait in particular. Since with have just about 20 minutes left to go, I request that the Parties make their intervention just not more than one minute please. I request Turkey to have the floor.

TURKEY:

Thank you very much, Madam President. I speak on behalf of the 51 parties of the European Region. The European Region looks back on a constructive, fruitful and successive Conference of the Parties. We have discussed a range of important topics that all have one goal: the full implementation of the Framework recommendation on tobacco control and improved health for all within the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. With this statement, the European Region wishes to thank everyone who worked so hard to make this COP a success. Madam President, you and the Chairs of Committees A and B have guided us excellently through the agenda. With great appreciation, we would also like to also acknowledge the

extensive work of the Conference Secretariat before and during the COP and cordially thank the Head of Secretariat and all the staff for their tremendous efforts. To conclude, the European Region looks forward to working with the newly elected Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and wishes them success in the next intersessional period. Dear colleagues, the European Region is privileged by the decision that the Netherlands will be hosting COP9. With a sense of great honour and responsibility, we look forward to seeing you all again at the next COP hosted in our Region. Thank you.

[Applause]

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you, EU and Turkey in particular. Now Uruguay.

URUGUAY:

Muchas gracias, señora presidenta. La Región de las Américas desea agradecer a la mesa actual, a los coordinadores regionales y especialmente a usted como presidenta de la COP por toda la labor realizada, así como al Secretariado. Fue para nuestra Región también un honor contar con la presidencia del Comité A en la figura de la Dra. Kavita Singh. Felicitamos también a la Dra. Reina Roa por su reelección como miembro de la mesa para las Américas, y estamos saludando los esfuerzos de las Partes para alcanzar consensos durante esta COP, y los invitamos a continuar trabajando en los temas que quedan pendientes de aquí a la COP9. Agradecemos asimismo la labor de los intérpretes. Muchas gracias.

[Applause]

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. Now I request Eswatini to kindly take the floor.

ESWATINI:

Thank you, Chair. It's Eswatini, the Kingdom of Eswatini. On behalf of the African Region, I am delighted to offer our most sincere congratulations to the Convention Secretariat for successfully organizing and conducting this eighth Conference of the Parties to the FCTC. We also acknowledge and extend our congratulations to Dr Kavita Singh and to Dr Vichit-Vadakan for chairing Committees A and B, respectively. The African Region is delighted by the adoption of the Medium-term Strategic Framework with reference to the implementation review mechanism. We think that this Framework and the proposed Global Strategy will accelerate FCTC implementation and will serve as a tool to mobilize additional resources to support our work at a country level. The Africa Region is, therefore, looking forward to its implementation immediately after this Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties. We also take this opportunity to congratulate the respective Members of the Bureau that have been appointed Vice-Presidents of the Conference of the Parties, and we wish them all the best in the execution of their duties as Vice-Presidents of the Conference of the Parties. Lastly, we would like to thank Dr Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva, the Head of the Convention Secretariat, for her leadership throughout this Conference of the Parties and beyond. We thank you very much, Chair.

[Applause]

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. I now request New Zealand to take the floor.

NEW ZEALAND:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I just speak on behalf of the Western Pacific Region. As a Region, we would like to express our thanks to you, the President, the Committee Chairs, the Convention Secretariat, particularly for all the work that goes on behind the scenes that we don't necessarily see and appreciate, but we do want to thank them for all those extra hours and just to say, yeah, that we thank the Bureau and all of the Members and Regional Coordinators too. Thank you.

[Applause]

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. The last two parties to speak now. I request the Democratic Republic of the Congo to take the floor and Nigeria thereafter.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO :

Notre délégation de la République démocratique du Congo, au nom de la région d'Afrique nous remercions sincèrement Madame la Présidente, pour les travaux qui ont été effectués. Néanmoins la République démocratique du Congo voulait soutenir avec la toute dernière énergie la proposition, la décision qui a été prise en ce qui concerne la lutte antitabac dans les situations d'urgence. La RDC voudrait soutenir cette décision. Nous proposons qu'il y ait l'élaboration d'un plan de contingence et budgétisé pour que chaque fois on puisse renforcer la lutte antitabac dans les situations d'urgence. Nous disons cela puisque les situations d'urgence sont souvent inopinées et brusques, et des situations catastrophiques comme celle qui s'est passée à l'est de la RDC en conflit. S'il y a un plan de contingence budgétisé et au niveau de la classe, je pense qu'on sera en mesure d'être efficace dans la lutte antitabac dans des situations beaucoup plus compliquées. Nous remercions également sincèrement Madame la Présidente pour la direction de tous les travaux et pendant la COP 8 et nous en sommes très reconnaissant. Merci.

[Applause]

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much. I now request Nigeria to take the floor. Jamaica has also made a request so they may also take half a minute thereafter. Thank you.

NIGERIA:

Thank you, Madam Chair, for giving us the floor. First of all, I would like to share the sentiments of China, regarding the dates for COP9 because 1 October happens also to be the Independence Day for Nigeria and we would also appreciate if COP9 does not clash with that date. Secondly, I would like to join the other parties to thank Madam President, the other Members of the Bureau and indeed the FCTC Secretariat for the seamless manner in which they have conducted affairs for COP8, and this has led to the meeting being very fruitful and also coming up with very useful decisions, which we believe will help in fast-tracking the decision of the FCTC. We thank all the participants and hope – and congratulate, of course – the Netherlands. I hope that they host the COP9, and we believe that sometime in the future, Nigeria will also be in a position to host the COP. Thank you very much.

[Applause]

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much. I now request to Jamaica to take the floor.

JAMAICA:

Thank you, Madam President. We also want to add our voice to congratulate all the Parties for the spirit of collaboration and the demonstration of commitment to achieving the FCTC mandates. We want to thank all the persons who work behind the scenes because we know that a conference of this nature, there are a number of persons who were behind the scenes who we don't often see, so congratulations and thanks. And we want to give a special thanks to the Convention Secretariat who we know work around the clock. We don't often – we see them moving from session to session and we recognize their commitment. A special thanks to the Head of the Convention Secretariat for her warm smile no matter what is happening and her dedication to explaining to the Parties and, you know, meeting them half way so we want to thank you, Madam, for your leadership. Like Nigeria – I mean in the future – we hope Jamaica can host the COP where, you know, some of us can be on the beach and we can listen to some reggae music. Thank you.

[Applause]

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much, Jamaica. Now I come to the pleasant task of announcing the next President. On behalf of the newly elected Bureau, I would like to inform you that Mr Behzad Valizadeh from Iran has been designated by his peers as the President of COP9. Please join me in congratulating him and the new officers of the Conference of Parties.

[Applause]

Thank you. Now, we come to near closure of the Eighth Session of the COP. On behalf of all the delegates present here, before I request and give the floor to Dr da Costa e Silva for her closing remarks, and before I do this, let me thank Dr Vera on behalf of all of us present here for leading the Secretariat very effectively and very efficiently. You have the floor. There is

a request from Iran, so I suggest that let's allow Vera to speak and then I will give the floor to Iran, if that's okay with them. Is that okay, Iran? Thank you. Dr Vera.

HEAD OF THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT:

Thank you very much. Dear President, distinguished delegates, colleagues and friends. As we come to the end of COP8, I would like to reflect on the advances we have made. But before I move onto our accomplishments, I would like to note a few facts about the COP. With 148 Parties represented, we set a new record. The presence of over 1200 delegates, I believe, signifies the Parties' commitment to the treaty and a continuous support in preserving the COP, especially in the governmental and nongovernmental organizations. I would also like to note that this is the first time that COP's leadership – President and Committee Chairs – were all women. With all due respect to my male colleagues and distinguished Members of the Bureau and delegations, I personally appreciate that, at least at COP, there are no gender barriers.

[Applause]

I want to express my gratitude to the Bureau Members who guided our work with a steady hand and to welcome the new Bureau Members. We are looking forward to working with you, hand in hand. I want to express a special and heartfelt thank you to the Convention Secretariat staff, as always, they went above and beyond to help COP run smoothly. I would also like to thank our colleagues, who lent an invaluable hand in making this COP a success. To our translators, interpreters, editors, my gratitude. Even in the few hours that our distinguished delegates may manage to sleep, some of us were working to ensure that the Parties have all they needed for their deliberations. Thank you very much.

[Applause]

This COP elevated the conversation on the impact of tobacco on the environment. As we continue to learn how tobacco impacts environmental change, we will have additional facilities to fully engage these colleagues working to advance our mutual interest. That, of course, includes how we will continue to ensure that tobacco control is integral to maintaining our Sustainable Development Goals. A significant milestone was the measures to strengthen and the implementation of the WHO FCTC. It provides us with a clear path forward as we bring forth the whole-of-government approach and strive for policy coherence in accelerating the implementation of the treaty. This strategic approach aligns our priorities and objectives. It supports efficient and effective use of our limited resources as the workplan and budget are aligned to the clear priorities of the strategy, as laid out by the Parties. It is a roadmap to help us all in the journey towards a shared destination, with tools and support and indicators to let us know how our progress is going. The COP made incredible advances in promoting transparency and protecting the treaty from the nefarious influence of the tobacco industry. The decision on preventing and addressing real or perceived conflicts of interest at the Secretariat, combined with the code of conduct for Bureau Members and enhanced transparency for delegates and observers, will ensure that all of us – all of us who are working to reach the goals of the treaty operate as transparently as possible.

Furthermore, with the decision on Article 5.3, the Parties renew their commitment to protect the treaty against the commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry. The Secretariat and the Knowledge Hub on 5.3 supported by all Knowledge Hubs remain ready to assist parties in implementing these measures. The changes in the Rules of Procedure will also support additional openness of the proceedings, combined with the decisions for transparency,

we hope to ensure that COP will both be more open and more protected against the industry. And on growing, the tobacco industry strategy is to claim that COP is against farmers who grow tobacco. We all know that nothing is further from the truth, as the decision on Article 17 will support our work in finding sustainable alternative livelihoods for farmers, helping them to be free from the unfair tobacco industry practices. Furthermore, the COP decision invites the Parties to address environmental externalities associated with the tobacco growing and manufacturing.

The Secretariat will continue to reach out and engage experts and international entities to support the goals of the Convention and we appreciate the call for Parties to promote policy coherence among intergovernmental organizations when it comes to preventing tobacco industry interference and promoting transparency. The Convention Secretariat is grateful for the COP reflections on the position of the Head of the Convention Secretariat that you allowed the Bureau to bring the issue back to COP9, which may facilitate this work. You can be sure this is something that will help you a lot in the future. Of course, the COP does not happen in a vacuum. The tobacco industry's attempts to control our agenda were all around us, creating events, distributing material, making sure that media credited that COP were being seduced by their empty promises. It was clear that more than ever, we need to say on course and remain strong to ensure that health, social and economic development, promoted by full implementation of the WHO FCTC, are not hijacked by the industry. As the Secretariat prepares for the First Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products in one and a half days, we once again thank the Parties for their guidance, for those of you who are staying on, we will see you on Monday when we will engage in the new REACH mode exercise where the health sector continues to have a key role. For those of you returning home, I wish you safe travels and thank you very much for the participation of all in this big and wonderful exercise.

[Applause]

So let me just, before I finish, there is a tradition that for every President of the COP, at the end of the exercise, we handover a gavel. So, I would like to just keep the tradition and hand over the gavel to our President.

[Applause]

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you. I am honoured, Vera, and thank you once again for leading us so effectively and so efficiently. We have made great strides. Now I give the floor to Iran. We are keen to listen to our next President. You have the floor.

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN:

Thank you, Madam President. It is always a privilege to speak and take the floor as the final speaker so I appreciate you for that. And on behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I have the honour to wholeheartedly appreciate the Conference of the Parties for entrusting the arduous task of the presidency of the next COP to my country. We are aware of this important responsibility, and we will do our best to serve the noble objectives of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in the fight against tobacco and for our common

interests in the field of public health. I further wish to thank the Government of the Kingdom of Netherlands for extending the invitation to host the Ninth Conference of the Parties in 2020. Last but not least, I would like to thank and sincerely acknowledge the efforts of the Bureau, in particular you, Madam President, who ably conducted the business of this COP, as well as the Chairpersons of Committees A and B, Vice-Chairs and Regional Coordinators. Likewise, our profound appreciation goes to Dr Vera da Costa e Silva, distinguished Head of the Convention Secretariat and all her staff for their tremendous efforts to bring COP8 to a successful conclusion. I thank you, Madam President, and wish you all a safe journey back home.

[Applause]

THE PRESIDENT:

Thank you very much for those kind words, and we wish your presidency all success. Before we close the Eighth Session of the Conference of Parties, let me also thank from the bottom of my heart the team of the Secretariat, the Governance and International Cooperation Team lead by my dear friend, Ms Guangyuan Liu. She was very ably sustained by her team members Carmen, Carol, Claire and Sebastien. The Legal Trade and Protocol Team led by Mr Nicolas Guerrero to my right, and he was ably sustained by Yoni, Patrick, Martin and Valentina. The Reporting and Knowledge Management Team lead by Dr Tibor Szylagyi, he was assisted by Leticia, Jia si, Rob and Dominique. The Development Assistance Team lead by Mr Andrew Black and assisted by Janette, Elena, Rodrigo and Sidi. The Communication Team of Mitchel, Rachel, Stella and Pascal and the team of the Head of the Secretariat, Carmen, Leoniria and Godfrey. The team of interpreters, thank you very much; we could not have done without you, led by Mr Abi Chaker and the team of interpreters lead by Ms Jane Nicholson. I would like to thank the report officers, the record officers, Journal, press writers, ladies who are with us who have been helping us on the podiums and last but not the least, the WHO Conference Services team lead by Mr Reja Sarkis and José Perez Garcia. Thank you for assisting all of us, we could not have done without you. As I close the Plenary, I want to again take this opportunity to thank my Bureau colleagues, the Chairpersons of Committee A and B, and I have the satisfaction that we move from here to MOP1. Thank you very much and safe travels. Thank you.

[Applause]

The meeting rose at 13:00

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