



WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

**Conference of the Parties to the
WHO Framework Convention
on Tobacco Control**

Eighth session
Geneva, Switzerland, 1–6 October 2018

6 October 2018

DECISION

FCTC/COP8(19) Implementation of Articles 17 and 18 (alternative livelihoods and protection of the environment)

The Conference of the Parties (COP),

Considering that the implementation of Articles 17 and 18 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) can contribute to the achievement of some goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, namely, Goal #2 (Zero hunger), Goal #3 (Good health and Well-being), Goal #6 (Clean water and Sanitation), Goal #8 (Decent Work and Economic growth), Goal #12 (Responsible consumption and production), Goal #13 (Climate action), Goal #14 (Life below water), and Goal #15 (Life on land);

Recalling decisions FCTC/COP6(14) and FCTC/COP7(8), both of which are entitled Protection of public health policies with respect to tobacco control from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry, and recognizing the importance of implementing Article 5.3 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) on both the global and local levels;

Recalling also its decision FCTC/COP7(13) on Measures to strengthen implementation of the Convention through coordination and cooperation;

Recognizing that international cooperation and South–South and Triangular cooperation are key to advancing the implementation of the WHO FCTC worldwide, as well as the relevant role of Knowledge Hubs in facilitating exchange of information and cooperation between Parties and providing technical assistance;

Recognizing that the tobacco industry tactics continue to be an important barrier to implementation of the Convention, as noted in the 2018 Global Progress Report on Implementation of the WHO FCTC, affecting the implementation of Article 5.3 at the national and global levels;

Considering that tobacco industry internal documents disclose strategies to control the voices of tobacco growers as a way to block tobacco control policies at national and international levels;¹

Recalling that in order to block WHO FCTC implementation, tobacco industry argues that measures to reduce tobacco consumption under the Convention will extinguish the economic benefits of tobacco growing to local and national economic and reduce employment;^{2,3,4,5,6,7}

Noting that Articles 17 and 18 are the least implemented articles of the Convention, according to the 2018 Global Progress Report on Implementation of the WHO FCTC (FCTC/COP/8/4);

Recalling decisions FCTC/COP4(9), FCTC/COP5(8) and FCTC/COP6(11) on Economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing, and considering that farmers who live in a situation of poverty are the most vulnerable to the social disruption and poverty caused by tobacco farming (bonded labour and child labour) and that tobacco growers should be engaged in policy development concerning Articles 17 and 18 in line with Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC and its guidelines;

Considering the high prevalence of child and youth labour and research showing that among farm families that substituted tobacco growing for other crops, this prevalence has dropped significantly;⁸

Noting with concern the finding of the report entitled “Cigarette smoking: an assessment of tobacco’s global environmental footprint across its entire supply chain, and policy strategies to reduce it”;⁹

¹ Tobacco Tactics. International Tobacco Growers Association. http://www.tobaccotactics.org/index.php/International_Tobacco_Growers_Association

² Lown EA, McDaniel PA, Malone RE. Tobacco is “our industry and we must support it”: Exploring the potential implications of Zimbabwe’s accession to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. *Globalization and Health*. 2016;12:2 <https://globalizationandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12992-015-0139-3>

³ Bertrab AX. Mexican tobacco growers: Economically shunned by industry, still used as lobbyists. The Center for Public Integrity. May 31, 2011. <https://www.publicintegrity.org/2011/05/31/4773/mexican-tobacco-growers-economically-shunned-industry-still-used-lobbyists>

⁴ Tobacco Industry Watch. 01 november 2016. Tobacco industry applies pressure on the COP & Government of India. <https://tobaccowatch.seatca.org/index.php/2016/11/01/tobacco-industry-applies-pressure-on-the-cop-government-of-india/>

⁵ Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance. ITGA misleads farmers, undermines the COP. <https://seatca.org/?p=2229>

⁶ Campaign For Tobacco-Free Kids. November 2011. Tobacco Industry Front Group: The International Tobacco Growers’ Association. https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/assets/global/pdfs/en/IW_interference_ITGA_fact_sheet.pdf

⁷ Tobacco control playbook. November 16th, 2017. Does tobacco control harm tobacco growers? <https://tobaccoplaybook.net/en/015-tobacco-growers.html>

⁸ Bonato, Amadeu. A. Perfil da produção e da agricultura familiar produtora de tabaco na Região Sul do Brasil (um olhar a partir da concepção do desenvolvimento e diversificação dos meios de vida).

⁹ <http://www.who.int/fctc/publications/WHO-FCTC-Environment-Cigarette-smoking.pdf>

Noting that the last Progress Reports on WHO FCTC implementation (FCTC/COP/6/5, FCTC/COP/7/4, FCTC/COP/8/9) have already shown a global decrease on tobacco consumption¹ that may reflect on less demand for tobacco leaves;^{2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11;}

Considering the measurable outcomes of Implementation of Articles 17 and 18 and its impact indicators defined in decision FCTC/COP6(11) Policy options and Recommendations on economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing (in relation to articles 17 and 18 of the WHO FCTC);

Noting that the demand for tobacco leaves may diminish;

Understanding that the implementation of Articles 17 and 18, through the switching to viable economic alternatives, is a central measure to safeguard the livelihoods and health of tobacco farmers, that may be affected by a future reduction of tobacco demand, and a tool to enhance Article 5.3 to protect tobacco control measures from tobacco industry interference;

DECIDES:

- (a) to invite Parties to support and strengthen the implementation of Articles 17 and 18 of WHO FCTC as a mean to safeguard tobacco growers livelihoods and to address tobacco industry national and international efforts to block tobacco control policies;
- (b) to invite Parties to engage in collaboration across sectors aimed at mitigating the environmental damage caused by tobacco;
- (c) to invite Parties to raise awareness, in accordance with Article 17 and Article 18 of WHO FCTC on the impact of tobacco cultivation, production and consumption on both the terrestrial and marine environment and the health of persons;
- (d) to invite Parties to encourage farmers, including through technical assistance, to switch to viable alternatives to tobacco farming;
- (e) to invite Parties to share best practices to address the environmental externalities associated with tobacco growing and manufacturing;

¹ Chung-Hall J, Craig L, Gravely S, Sandone N and Fong GT. Impact of the WHO FCTC over the first decade: a global evidence review prepared for the Impact Assessment Expert Group. Tob Control 2018; 0:1–10. <https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/early/2018/06/07/tobaccocontrol-2018-054389>

² The Wall street Journal. April 25, 2018. Philip Morris Shares Suffer Biggest Daily Fall in a Decade on Declining Cigarette Volume. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/philip-morris-stock-sees-worst-day-in-a-decade-on-declining-cigarette-volume-1524159359>

³ Tobacco Reporter. February 6, 2018. JTI volumes down in 2017. <https://www.tobaccoreporter.com/2018/02/jti-volumes-down-in-2017/>

⁴ Tobacco Reporter. April 21, 2017. PMI's cigarette volumes tumble <https://www.tobaccoreporter.com/2017/04/pmis-cigarette-volumes-tumble/>

⁵ Market Screener. 02/22/2018. British American Tobacco: Shares Fall on LFL Volume Decrease – Update <https://www.marketscreener.com/BRITISH-AMERICAN-TOBACCO-4001163/news/British-American-Tobacco-Shares-Fall-on-LFL-Volume-Decrease-Update-26033455/>

⁶ Tobacco Reporter. April 20, 2018. [PMI's volumes falter](https://www.tobaccoreporter.com/2018/04/pmis-volumes-falter/). <https://www.tobaccoreporter.com/2018/04/pmis-volumes-falter/>

⁷ British American Tobacco. The global market. http://www.bat.com/group/sites/UK__9D9KCY.nsf/vwPagesWebLive/DO9DCKFM

⁸ Tobacco Reporter. February 1, 2016. [Stuck on tobacco](https://www.tobaccoreporter.com/2016/02/stuck-on-tobacco/). <https://www.tobaccoreporter.com/2016/02/stuck-on-tobacco/>

⁹ Tobacco Reporter September 14, 2018. Fall in sales falling. <https://www.tobaccoreporter.com/2018/09/fall-in-sales-falling/>

¹⁰ Tobacco Reporter. February 4, 2016. Universal lowers crop estimates. <https://www.tobaccoreporter.com/2016/02/universal-lowers-estimates-for-2016-big-leaf-crops>

¹¹ Bloomberg Businessweek. 5 January 2018. World's Third-Largest Tobacco Company Keeps Losing Customers at Home. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-01-05/world-s-third-largest-tobacco-company-keeps-losing-customers-at-home>

REQUESTS the Convention Secretariat:

(a) to continue to engage and support Parties to prepare national action plans in accordance with the Policy Options and Recommendations for the Implementation of Articles 17 and 18 and to support research and pilot projects in tobacco growing countries, ensuring tobacco growers participation in policy development through their legitimate representatives taking into account what is expressed in the preamble to this decision related to Article 5.3;

(b) to promote international cooperation and exchange of information on implementation of Articles 17 and 18, specially through South-South and Triangular cooperation with WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on International Cooperation, considering experiences with the implementation of the Policy Options and Recommendations for Articles 17 and 18 as a tool to enhance the implementation of Article 5.3;

(c) to facilitate the inclusion of measurable outcomes and impact indicators of implementation of Articles 17 and 18 as defined in decision FCTC/COP6(11) in the biannual progress report of the WHO FCTC;

(d) to seek and continue collaboration with other United Nations bodies, as appropriate, and with relevant international organizations, including regional and subregional organizations to support Parties in the implementation of Articles 17 and 18;

(e) to identify and recommend options and sustainable practices to enhance the implementation of alternative livelihoods to tobacco growing and measures to mitigate social, cultural, environmental, economical and occupational risks of tobacco production, in line with 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

(Fifth plenary meeting, 6 October 2018)

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