



WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION  
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

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

Seventh session  
Delhi, India, 7–12 November 2016

**12 November 2016**

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## **DECISION**

**FCTC/COP7(10) Economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing (in relation to Articles 17 and 18 of the WHO FCTC)**

The Conference of the Parties (COP),

Taking into account Article 17 (Provision of support for economically viable alternative activities) and Article 18 (Protection of the environment and health of persons) of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC);

Reaffirming the FCTC/COP6(11) decision to adopt the policy options and recommendations on economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing;

Reiterating that the WHO FCTC requires Parties to promote economically viable alternatives for tobacco workers, growers and, as the case may be, individual sellers;

Recalling that the WHO FCTC urges the Parties to have due regard to the protection of the environment and the health of persons in relation to the environment in respect of tobacco cultivation and manufacture within their respective territories;

Considering that policies focused on economically, socially and environmentally sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing have a multilevel and crosscutting impact on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Bearing in mind that Articles 17 of the WHO FCTC is aimed at promoting alternative livelihood options;

Considering that the progressive reduction in tobacco consumption from the effective implementation of the WHO FCTC allows time for implementing policies that assist tobacco growers and workers to transition to alternative farming and occupations;

Recalling that the FCTC/COP6(11) decision requested the Convention Secretariat to support the development of pilot projects and other initiatives that aim to implement policy options and

recommendations on FCTC Articles 17 and 18 and, since then, there has been limited progress on the issue;

Noting, as contained in document FCTC/COP/7/4, that Articles 17 and 18 are among the least implemented Articles of the FCTC;

1. DECIDES:

- (a) to encourage Parties not growing tobacco to not introduce tobacco growing;
- (b) to urge Parties, when implementing Articles 17 and 18, to adopt a whole-of-government and stakeholder participatory approaches keeping in mind Article 5.3 in promoting alternatives to tobacco growing, and avoid tobacco industry obstruction in programmes meant for the welfare and diversification of tobacco growers and workers and the protection of the environment, as appropriate in the national context;
- (c) to urge parties to call for policy coherence in the mandates of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations;
- (d) to urge the international community to support mobilization of resources to promote economically viable alternatives to tobacco growers and workers;

2. REQUESTS the Convention Secretariat:

- (a) to coordinate with civil society and intergovernmental organizations with relevant expertise to support interested parties in developing pilot projects, with emphasis on whole-of-government approach policies or initiatives;
- (b) to develop, in cooperation with the parties, a toolkit to guide the implementation of the Livelihoods Methodology;
- (c) to invite the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to include the promotion of economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing as part of its sustainable rural development agenda;
- (d) to establish or strengthen collaboration with UNWOMEN, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and nongovernmental organizations, such as the International Network of Women Against Tobacco (INWAT), to develop strategies to protect women, girls and boys from the negative effects of tobacco farming;
- (e) to establish collaboration with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to conduct studies to estimate the environmental effects of tobacco growing and production;
- (f) to promote international cooperation and exchange of information among interested Parties, including south-south and Triangular cooperation;
- (g) to continue to document experiences and lessons learnt concerning alternative livelihoods, organize and periodically update international database of resources, within the WHO FCTC coordination platform, of best practices, instruments and measures to support the implementation of the policy options and recommendations;
- (h) to improve the accessibility of the international database and its tools, within the WHO FCTC information platform of good practices;

- (i) to renew the request for the WHO to support interested Parties to develop guidelines for surveillance, prevention and early diagnosis of occupational harms and risks specific to tobacco cultivation and manufacture;
  - (j) to invite WHO, as well as other relevant international organizations including UNEP, to prepare a report for COP8 on the environmental impact of tobacco lifecycle which collects technical knowledge on strategies to avoid and mitigate this impact, as well as recommend policy options and practical orientations to address it, identifying interventions that benefits public health and environment.
  - (k) to support Parties to advance initiatives as appropriate, aimed at raising awareness about the occupational and environmental risks related to tobacco growing, in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
  - (l) to make the necessary arrangements, including budgetary arrangements, for developing the items 2(a), 2(b), 2(f), 2(i) and 2(k) of this decision;
3. FURTHER REQUESTS the Convention Secretariat:
- (a) to monitor progress on Parties' implementation of Articles 17 and 18;
  - (b) to report on progress at COP8.

(Fifth plenary meeting, 12 November 2016)

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