



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

DECISION

FCTC/COP7(12) Addressing gender-specific risks when developing tobacco control strategies

The Conference of the Parties (COP),

Recalling that the Preamble of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) recognizes the increase in tobacco use by women and young girls worldwide, the need for full participation of women at all levels of policy-making and implementation, and the need for gender-specific tobacco control strategies;

Recalling also that the Guiding Principles of the WHO FCTC (Article 4) emphasize the need to address gender-specific risks when developing tobacco control strategies;

Noting that some tobacco-related health problems are unique to women or more prevalent among women;

Considering the harmful effects of tobacco use in pregnancy, and the importance of informing and protecting pregnant women against the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and environmental tobacco smoke;

Considering also that girls and women in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) face specific risks to working in tobacco cultivation and manufacture;

Taking into account that gender-specific strategies need to reach all segments of the population;

Taking into account also that tobacco industry tactics may specifically target girls and women, especially those of lower social and economic status;

Concerned that the lack of evidence on the gender-specific effect of tobacco control policies challenges Parties' full implementation of the WHO FCTC and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically regarding maternal health improvement;

1. WELCOMES the report of the Convention Secretariat (document FCTC/COP/7/14) that addresses potential areas of gender-specific tobacco control measures and policies;

2. REQUESTS the Convention Secretariat to invite the World Health Organization (WHO) to prepare and submit a paper to the eighth session of the COP that includes:
- (a) further updates on the evidence on tobacco use and its consequences among girls and women, as well as boys and men, and with special attention to vulnerable groups, in respect to social determinants of health;
 - (b) experiences from the Parties including opportunities and challenges in implementing gender-specific tobacco control policies;
 - (c) policy options to be considered by the Parties when developing and promoting gender-specific tobacco control policies, in line with WHO FCTC provisions, at the national level.

(Fifth plenary meeting, 12 November 2016)

===