



WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION  
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

## **Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products**

First session  
Geneva, Switzerland, 8–10 October 2018  
**Provisional agenda item 5.3**

**FCTC/MOP/1/11  
22 August 2018**

# **Timelines for evidence-based research (Articles 6.5 and 13.2)**

## **Report by the Convention Secretariat**

### **Purpose of the document**

This report describes the requirements, contained in the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, that call for evidence-based research to be conducted: 1) to ascertain whether key inputs essential to the manufacture of tobacco products can be identified and subjected to an effective control mechanism (Article 6.5); and 2) to study the extent of illicit trade in tobacco products related to duty free sales (Article 13.2).

### **Action by the Meeting of the Parties**

The Meeting of Parties is invited to provide further guidance and consider adopting the annexed draft decision.

Contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) if applicable: SDG Targets 3.a, 3.d and 16.4; and SDGs 3 and 16

Link to the workplan and budget item: 2018–2019: 2.1(c) and 2020–2021: 2.1(c)

Additional financial implications if not included in the workplan and budget: none

Author team(s): Reporting and Knowledge Management, Convention Secretariat

## **BACKGROUND**

1. Articles 6.5 and 13.2 of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products require the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Protocol to ensure that, five years after entry into force of the Protocol, evidence-based research is conducted on:

- key inputs essential to the manufacture of tobacco products that can be subject to an effective control mechanism; and
- the extent of illicit trade in tobacco products related to duty free sales.

2. Recognizing the importance of gaining a better understanding of these matters, the Panel of Experts on the Protocol suggested that the First Meeting of the Parties (MOP1) consider requesting the Convention Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) to assess the available evidence on Articles 6.5 and 13.2 of the Protocol, identifying research needs and gaps.

3. The MOP may wish to mandate the Convention Secretariat to propose specific research priorities and prepare reports on key inputs essential to the manufacture of tobacco products and on the extent of illicit trade in tobacco products related to duty free sales. The MOP might also wish to mandate the Convention Secretariat to explore the establishment of a knowledge hub(s) to assist with implementation of evidence-based research, including within the Parties.

## **ACTION BY THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

4. MOP1 is invited to provide further guidance and consider adopting the annexed draft decision.

**Annex: Draft decision on timelines for evidence-based research (Articles 6.5 and 13.2)**

The Meeting of the Parties (MOP),

Considering the report prepared by the Convention Secretariat on timelines for evidence-based research (FCTC/MOP/1/11),

Recognizing that the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products (Protocol) requires that the MOP, five years after entry into force of the Protocol, ensure that evidence-based research is conducted on key inputs essential to the manufacture of tobacco products that can be subject to an effective control mechanism (Article 6.5) and on the extent of illicit trade in tobacco products related to duty free sales (Article 13.2),

1. DECIDES to request the Convention Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control:
  - (1) to make the necessary arrangements to assess the evidence base on key inputs essential to the manufacture of tobacco products that can be subject to an effective control mechanism (Article 6.5) and on the extent of illicit trade in tobacco products related to duty free sales (Article 13.2), also identifying research needs and gaps;
  - (2) to explore the establishment of a knowledge hub to assist with and support, as appropriate, the implementation of evidence-based research, in line with identified needs and gaps;
  - (3) submit a progress report for consideration by the MOP at its second session.

===