

**FCTC**WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

CSF/NV/17/19

Relevant information to the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in support of the implementation of Article 5.3 of the treaty

The Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (the Convention Secretariat) presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) and has the honour to inform them about developments related to the implementation of Article 5.3, in accordance with decision FCTC/COP7(8) of the Conference of the Parties (COP).

The decision, adopted by the COP at its seventh session, calls on Parties “to use the Guidelines of Article 5.3 where appropriate and other available resources to strengthen the implementation of Article 5.3, and to remain vigilant of tobacco industry efforts to undermine implementation of Article 5.3.” It requests the Convention Secretariat “to increase awareness of existing tools to implement Article 5.3”.

The Convention Secretariat would therefore like to inform Parties that: (i) Article 5.3 Guidelines and tools for its implementation are available on the WHO FCTC website¹; (ii) the Article 5.3 Knowledge Hub, as envisaged in decision FCTC/COP7(8), will be launched on 1 November 2017 at Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand²; (iii) three tobacco industry observatories (hosted by institutions in Brazil, South Africa and Sri Lanka) are now exercising monitoring functions in accordance with the Article 5.3 Guidelines³.

The Convention Secretariat also wishes to inform Parties of positive developments within the United Nations system regarding Article 5.3: (i) the ECOSOC Coordination and Management Meeting recently adopted a resolution to promote implementation of the United Nations agencies’ Model Policy on preventing tobacco industry interference⁴; (ii) the Board of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) agreed to end its dealings with the tobacco industry, delisting the four tobacco companies as participants; (iii) the November meeting of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO) will re-evaluate its cooperation with the tobacco industry and its partners, having regard to the United Nations Model Policy. WHO FCTC Parties on the Governing Body of the ILO are invited to refer to the United Nations Model Policy and support the complete exclusion of tobacco companies from the ILO’s programmes and initiatives.

Parties should also be aware of recent tobacco industry initiatives which could damage tobacco control efforts and jeopardize implementation of Article 5.3 and its Guidelines. The newly launched Foundation for a Smoke-Free World, funded by Philip Morris International (PMI), promotes research on new and emerging tobacco products and alternative livelihoods. The Convention Secretariat has

¹ <http://apps.who.int/ftc/implementation/database/article/article-5/resources>

² Requests for assistance from the Knowledge Hub should be directed to ftcsecretariat@who.int

³ Expressions of interest in establishing an observatory should be directed to ftcsecretariat@who.int

⁴ E/RES/2017/8

responded with a statement⁵ on its website and a commentary⁶ in Tobacco Control Journal. Parties should also be aware of PMI IMPACT, another PMI-funded initiative, which provides financial support to governmental and non-governmental organizations working to counter illicit trade in tobacco.

The Convention Secretariat considers that interaction with these two entities is not “strictly necessary” for effective regulation of the tobacco industry and tobacco products (Recommendations 2.1 and 2.2 of the Article 5.3 Guidelines), and thus urges Parties not to apply for, or accept, funding from these sources.

The Secretariat of the WHO FCTC avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva of the Parties to the WHO FCTC the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 30 October 2017

⁵ <http://www.who.int/fctc/mediacentre/statement/secretariat-statement-launch-foundation-for-a-smoke-free-world/en/>

⁶ <http://www.who.int/fctc/mediacentre/statement/secretariat-statement-launch-foundation-for-a-smoke-free-world/en/>