DECISION

FCTC/COP7(13) Measures to strengthen implementation of the Convention through coordination and cooperation

The Conference of the Parties (COP),

Recalling Article 23.5 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), which stipulates that the COP shall keep under regular review the implementation of the Convention and take the decisions necessary to promote its effective implementation;

Recalling also decisions FCTC/COP1(13), FCTC/COP2(10), FCTC/COP4(17) and FCTC/COP5(14) on financial resources, mechanisms of assistance and international cooperation;

Recalling further that decision FCTC/COP5(14) established a working group on sustainable measures to strengthen implementation of the WHO FCTC and that decision FCTC/COP6(17) decided to extend its mandate;

Having considered the reports of the working group presented to the sixth session of the COP (document FCTC/COP/6/19) and to the seventh session of the COP (document FCTC/COP/7/18), which recommended, among other things, to develop a detailed action plan for assistance implementation for consideration at COP8;

Noting the report of the Convention Secretariat on global progress in the implementation of the WHO FCTC, international cooperation for implementation of the WHO FCTC, south–south and Triangular cooperation, information sharing, and financial resources and mechanisms of assistance, as submitted to the seventh session of the COP (document FCTC/COP/7/4);

Noting also the report of the Expert Working Group on Reporting Arrangements under the WHO FCTC, as submitted to the seventh session of the COP (document FCTC/COP/7/15); which recommended the establishment of an implementation review committee for the WHO FCTC;

Welcoming the progress made, yet concerned that Parties continue to confront multiple challenges in implementing the WHO FCTC, including in accessing and adapting existing mechanisms of assistance to their specific needs and in obtaining resources to support implementation of the treaty by Parties that are low and middle income countries;
Recognizing that international cooperation and south–south and triangular cooperation are key to advancing the implementation of the WHO FCTC worldwide;

Recognizing also the role of relevant Knowledge Hubs in facilitating exchange of information and cooperation between Parties and providing technical assistance;

Encouraging accelerated implementation of the WHO FCTC;

Ensuring that support for Parties’ full implementation of the Convention responds directly to the needs of the Parties;

1. URGES Parties and the Convention Secretariat, and also invites the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to take action in line with the suggested actions and recommendations set out in the report of the working group on sustainable measures to strengthen implementation of the WHO FCTC;

2. DECIDES:
   (a) to establish a working group to develop a draft medium-term strategic framework (MTSF) to guide the development of biennial workplans, budgets and implementation support for consideration by the COP that should:
      i. include a vision, goals and objectives;
      ii. identify gaps, limitations and needs of Parties at the global, regional and national levels, drawing on work to date to review through a mechanism for systematic review of Parties reports, needs assessments, and the recent WHO FCTC Impact assessment (consideration could be given to whether this mechanism could be an implementation review committee, drawing on the report of the expert group on reporting under the WHO FCTC as per document FCTC/COP7/15);
      iii. provide guidance on priorities for implementation support for the WHO FCTC, drawing on a review of gaps, limitations, and needs of Parties and the report on strategic directions given by the working group on sustainable measures, to strengthen implementation of the WHO FCTC. This should include:
         (i) all assistance activities to be carried out by the Secretariat;
         (ii) South–south and triangular cooperation projects and activities;
         (iii) international cooperation projects and activities;
         (iv) financial resources;
         (v) mechanisms of assistance;
      iv. consider input provided by Parties through an online consultation or any other means deemed appropriate and cost-effective, and any research or wider engagement by the working group that is considered necessary to inform its work;
      v. take into consideration monitoring and evaluation activities in relation to the implementation of the Convention;
      vi. ensure complementarity of the Secretariats’ different assistance activities, and identify opportunities for synergies between the work of the Convention Secretariat, WHO and other United Nations entities to maximize support for the implementation of the WHO FCTC;
      vii. take into account the need to ensure coherence and continuity among the successive workplans and budgets of the Convention Secretariat;
viii. include a results-oriented monitoring and evaluation plan, within the MTSF with clear, time-bound indicators with respect to the goals and objectives;

ix. review the recommendations of the Expert Group on reporting arrangements under the WHO FCTC and the proposed Terms of Reference to establish an Implementation Review Committee (document FCTC/COP/7/15) in order to make recommendations on an ongoing mechanism for the systematic review of Parties’ support and assistance needs for consideration of COP;

(b) that the composition of the Working Group:

i. be limited to 18 members. Regions can nominate up to two members representing Parties through regional coordinators to ensure equal regional participation. The Convention Secretariat should invite up to three additional members of the group representing nongovernmental organizations that are observers to the COP, and up to three additional members of the group representing intergovernmental organizations that are observers to the COP, based on their relevant expertise and sound knowledge of matters related to the implementation of the WHO FCTC;

ii. that the Convention Secretariat should make the necessary arrangements, including budgetary arrangements, for the performance of the work of the working group, in line with the COP travel policy applicable to working groups. There should be at least one face-to-face meeting of the working group; additionally, the work of the working group may be conducted through electronic means of communication, in order to promote cost-efficiency;

(c) the working group shall report the outcome of its work to the eighth session of the COP;

3. REQUESTS the Convention Secretariat:

(a) to undertake the actions set out in the report of the working group of sustainable measures (FCTC/COP/7/18), including the Terms of Reference for the Coordination Platform recommended by the working group;

(b) to provide support and make the necessary arrangements for the functioning of the working group, including budgetary arrangements.

(Fifth plenary meeting, 12 November 2016)