Knowledge Hub Info – 5 December 2018

Information for Parties on the work of the WHO FCTC Secretariat’s Knowledge Hubs

This is the sixth issue of the Convention Secretariat’s newsletter on updates on the work of its Knowledge Hubs (KHs). This issue covers the period from September to November 2018.

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A series of four webinars have been planned by the Knowledge Hub on Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking (KH-WTS) for the second half of 2018 on matters related to the prevention and control of waterpipe use. The webinar series are aimed to raise awareness and promote discussions related to waterpipe tobacco smoking and control.

The first webinar, of the four in the series, was held on 12 July 2018 and introduced the Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking Knowledge Hub and its significance. The presentation of Dr. Ghazi Zaatari, is available at the following link: https://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/waterpipes/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/06/Zaatari-Webinar-KH-WTS-July-12-final.pdf.

The second webinar was held on 11 September 2018, covering guideline and policy options for the implementation of the WHO FCTC articles to prevent and control waterpipe tobacco smoking. The presentation of Dr. Rima Nakkash and Dr. Mohammed Jawad is available at: https://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/waterpipes/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/11/Webinar2.pdf.

The third webinar will be held on 13 December 2018 and will cover waterpipe control policies by the articles of the WHO FCTC, as well as an introduction of the most relevant decisions of COP8 for waterpipe control. Further information and instructions for registration are available at: https://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/waterpipes/recentarticlesonwts/.

For more details on the webinar series, please contact Ms. Jessica Najm at jn44@aub.edu.lb.
In collaboration with and with the participation of the WHO FCTC Convention Secretariat, the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and the WHO country office for Lebanon, the KH-WTS hosted two workshops at the American University of Beirut, in November 2018.

The first workshop on Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking Regulations and Challenges took place on 6-7 November 2018, was organized and hosted by the Knowledge Hub, with the objective to provide information on current legislation of waterpipe tobacco smoking control and to identify challenges in the implementation of relevant regulations. Recommendations were also discussed and shared to guide future actions.

Further information, including the agenda, lists of participants and presentations are available through the following link: https://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/waterpipes/webinar/.

The second workshop, the “FCA Regional Workshop on Global Strategy, Illicit Tobacco Trade Protocol and Article 6 of the WHO FCTC”, a capacity building event hosted by the Knowledge Hub, was carried out on 8-9 November 2018, with the participation of the Knowledge Hub, the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, the WHO country office for Lebanon and the Convention Secretariat. The Global Strategy to Accelerate Tobacco Control was introduced, after being adopted by the Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties, and discussions were centered on the implementation of Article 6 of the WHO FCTC and implications of the ratification of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products.

The presentations of the taxation workshop are accessible from the following link: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8gz2fb4llb2yzji/AABXh6F2SxhPwowv602M8i7Ka?dl=0

For more details, please, contact Ms. Jessica Najm at jn44@aub.edu.lb.

Please, also follow KH-WTS on Facebook and Twitter.
An Overview of Global Regulatory Practices in Controlling Waterpipe Tobacco Use

Under the grant from the WHO FCTC Convention Secretariat, the KH-WTS elaborated a report reviewing and analyzing current global regulatory practices for waterpipe use based on experiences from 39 countries with existing regulations on waterpipe tobacco products and/or waterpipe use. This report provides key observations for the development and adoption of future policies in the regulation and control of waterpipe use. The paper was submitted for consideration to COP8 as a background document.

The report is available at the following links:
http://www.who.int/fctc/cop/session/cop8/WHO-FCTC-Regulatory-Practices-on-water-pipes.pdf and

WHO FCTC Secretariat’s Knowledge Hub on Taxation

Economics of Tobacco Control Project: Integrated Tobacco Taxation Workshop

The Knowledge Hub on Taxation organized and hosted a face-to-face workshop on tobacco taxation and tax modelling on 22-26 October 2018 in Cape Town, South Africa, with participants from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Health of Bangladesh, Botswana, Iran, Myanmar, South Africa and Zambia.

The workshop was opened by Prof. Corné van Walbeek from University of Cape Town, who gave an introduction to Article 6 of the WHO FCTC. Attendees were then trained on a series of topics in the economics of tobacco control, such as tobacco tax structures, illicit trade measurement and use of affordability to monitor progress on tobacco taxation.

Presentations of the workshop can be downloaded here (by members only): https://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/taxation/member-only-resources/.
**Surveillance Webinar Series 2018**

The Knowledge Hub on Surveillance is organizing a series of five thematic webinars to support the establishment of tobacco monitoring and surveillance systems, in line with Article 20 of the WHO FCTC, among low and middle income countries. The first webinar of the series was opened on 12 October 2018 by Ms. Hanna Ollila from the National Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland, who introduced the work scope of the Knowledge Hub on Surveillance and importance of adopting Article 20.

Following webinars were held on 26 October, 9 November and 23 November, hosting nine specialists in the field of tobacco control monitoring and research. A variety of topics have been discussed, including setting up a sustainable surveillance system; monitoring of tobacco control policies, tobacco use and the health consequences of tobacco consumption; and promoting scientific research on tobacco use and tobacco control.

Further information, including the webinar presentations and recordings, are available at: [https://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/surveillance/webinars/webinar-presentations/](https://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/surveillance/webinars/webinar-presentations/).

The **fifth webinar** will take place on 5 December 2018. Atty. Deborah Sy from the Global Center for Good Governance in Tobacco Control and Prof. Heikki Hiilamo from University of Helsinki will present on preventing the interference from tobacco industry in monitoring. Further information about the webinar and instructions for registration can be found at: [https://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/surveillance/fifth-webinar-series-5-december-2018/](https://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/surveillance/fifth-webinar-series-5-december-2018/).

For more details of the webinar series, please contact Ms. Sara Jaakonmäki at +358 29 524 7545.

**Advising Parties on the establishment of tobacco surveillance systems in line with Article 20 of the Convention**

The WHO FCTC Secretariat’s Knowledge Hub on Surveillance is enrolled in the project “Advising Parties on the establishment of tobacco surveillance systems in line with Article 20 of the Convention”. The project is co-funded by the Government of Norway and the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The implementation of the project will continue throughout 2019, and will include direct technical support through country missions in low and middle-income countries (LMICs).

The aim of the visits is to strengthen the implementation of Article 20 by supporting research, surveillance and exchange of information, mainly through the integration of the FCTC on existing national surveys. It is also focused on the contribution of implementation of the FCTC
to the progress on the SDGs and reporting on target 3.a, as well as on mobilizing support for the implementation of the Global Strategy to Accelerate Tobacco Control (as adopted by COP8).

In case a WHO FCTC Party considers monitoring and surveillance a priority for assistance, it would need to express its interest in scaling up the implementation of Article 20, in order to be considered in the selection process. The corresponding WHO FCTC focal point can send an official request to the WHO FCTC Secretariat’s KH on Surveillance (fctcknowledgehub@thl.fi), copied to the Convention Secretariat (copreporting@who.int).

WHO FCTC Secretariat’s Knowledge Hub on Smokeless Tobacco (KH-SLT)

Smokeless Tobacco Control Webinar Series

Starting from June 2018, the Knowledge Hub on Smokeless Tobacco (KH-SLT) is hosting a series of 7 webinars with the aim to raise awareness on matters related to SLT use and control. The webinars discuss the policy measures and approaches that could be applied by Parties and other stakeholders within their jurisdictions to implement interventions in an effort to prevent and control SLT use. The fourth webinar of the series took place on 24 September 2018. Prof. Saman Warnakulasuriya from King’s College London and Dr. Amit Yadav from ICMR-National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research (ICMR-NICPR), India, shared their perspectives on education, public awareness and communication of SLT products. Further information, including the details of the speakers, can be found through this link: https://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/smokeless-tobacco/fourth-webinar-series/.

The fifth webinar of the series was held on 30 November 2018. Dr. Dhirendra N Sinha, from Patna Medical College, presented on “Research, monitoring and surveillance of smokeless tobacco use”. Details of this session and the speaker are available here: https://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/smokeless-tobacco/fifth-webinar-series/.

Please, follow the website of the Knowledge Hub for dates and speakers of the last two webinars of the series: http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/smokeless-tobacco/smokeless-tobacco-control-webinar-series-2018/.

The Knowledge Hub also participated at COP8 and presented a case study on Pictorial Health Warnings. Details are available at: https://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/smokeless-tobacco/kh-slt-sharing-phw-best-practices-sear-parties-cop8-held-geneva-1-6-october-2018/
In collaboration of the ICMR-NICPR, the Indian Journal of Medical Research published a special issue on “Challenges in Control of Smokeless Tobacco Use” in September 2018, highlighting the major adverse health impacts of SLT use and calling for strengthening the regulation of SLT products. Studies suggest that pictorial health warnings, harmonized taxation policy, and training of healthcare providers could potentially contribute to SLT control. The publication of this issue fills the gap in research on SLT in India, and provides evidence and suggestions for other Parties in their efforts to implement relevant policies.

Publications included in this issue can be downloaded from the following link: [http://www.ijmr.org.in/showBackIssue.asp?issn=0971-5916;year=2018;volume=148;issue=1;month=July](http://www.ijmr.org.in/showBackIssue.asp?issn=0971-5916;year=2018;volume=148;issue=1;month=July)

**WHO FCTC Secretariat’s Knowledge Hub on Legal Challenges**

**The WTO Panel Report in Australia – Plain Packaging: Findings and Implications**

On 28 June 2018, the World Trade Organization (WTO) issued a decision in favor of Australia on the legal challenge to Australia’s tobacco plain packaging laws, dismissing the claims brought by Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Indonesia. This panel decision is a victory for public health and has significant implications for future legal challenges to plain packaging laws and other tobacco control measures in Australia and around the world. In this context, the Knowledge Hub on Legal Challenges elaborated a report analyzing the key findings and themes of the WTO panel report.
Workshop on the WTO Panel Report on Australia’s Tobacco Plain Packaging Laws: Findings and Implications

A workshop on the WTO Panel Report was organized by the Knowledge Hub to discuss the details of the technical legal findings and implications. The workshop took place on 12-16 November 2018 in Melbourne, Australia.

Background documents can be downloaded here: https://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/legal-challenges/download/background-documents-wto-panel-plain-packaging/.

Presentations will become available soon: https://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/legal-challenges/download/presentations-wto-panel-workshop/.


For a shorter initial summary, please, visit: http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/legal-challenges/initial-overview-wto-panel-decision-australia-plain-packaging/
Under the support and guidance of the WHO FCTC Convention Secretariat, the Knowledge Hub on Article 5.3 elaborated and published a guide for Parties on how to conduct industry monitoring in September 2018. This publication is intended to serve as a guide to assist Parties in their efforts to strengthen monitoring of tobacco industry activities, including how to establish and operate tobacco industry observatories and centers.

The guide is available in the following link: https://ggtc.world/dmdocuments/Guide%20for%20Parties%20WHO%20FCTC.pdf.
Upcoming Events

•  **Fifth Webinar of the WHO FCTC Secretariat’s Knowledge Hub on Surveillance**

  Topic: “Preventing tobacco industry interference in monitoring and research”
  Date and time: Wednesday, 5 December 2018 at 10:00 UTC
  Speaker: Atty. Deborah Sy, Head of Global Public Policy and Strategy, Global Center for Good Governance in Tobacco Control

•  **Third Webinar of the WHO FCTC Secretariat’s Knowledge Hub on Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking (KH-WTS)**

  Topic: “The relevance of WHO FCTC for waterpipe tobacco control policies in light of decisions of COP8”
  Date and time: Thursday, 13 December 2018 at 12:00 UTC
  Speakers: Dr. Tibor Szilagyi, Team Leader, Reporting and Knowledge Management, WHO FCTC Secretariat
  Dr. Rima Nakkash, Co-Director, WHO FCTC KH-WTS
  Link to registration: [https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2896615399661618946](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2896615399661618946)

The Secretariat will continue to inform Parties regularly on the work of its Knowledge Hubs.

Should you wish to receive assistance on any of the areas of work of the KHS, please contact the hubs directly or Dr. Tibor Szilagyi from the Convention Secretariat at szilagyit@who.int.