Knowledge Hub Info – 31 August 2018

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

This is the fifth issue of the Convention Secretariat’s newsletter on updates on the work of its Knowledge Hubs (KHs). This issue covers the period from May to August 2018.
**Waterpipe Smoking (WTS) Knowledge Hub Webinar Series**

A series of four webinars are planned by the Knowledge Hub in the second half of 2018 on matters related to the prevention and control of waterpipe use. The first webinar was held on 12 July 2018, and introduced the Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking Knowledge Hub and its work.

The webinar series are aimed to raise awareness and promote discussions related to waterpipe tobacco smoking and control. The **first webinar** speaker was Dr. Ghazi Zaatari, MD. Dr. Zaatari is the Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, Professor and Chair of the Department of Pathology & Medicine at the Faculty of Medicine at the American University of Beirut, who also directs the Knowledge Hub on Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking.


The **second webinar** will be held on 11 September 2018, and will cover policies to prevent and control waterpipe tobacco smoking by applying WHO FCTC articles.

For more details on the webinar series, please contact Jessica Najm at [jn44@aub.edu.lb](mailto:jn44@aub.edu.lb).
Third International Conference on Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking, 6-7 November 2018, Beirut, Lebanon

The Knowledge Hub is planning to organize the conference to provide an opportunity for the Parties to learn more about the control of waterpipe tobacco smoking. This conference will build momentum established from the first and second conferences, with a special focus on sharing recent evidence regarding interventions to prevent/control waterpipe tobacco smoking, their implications for everyday practice, and to enhance linkages and collaborative partnerships globally in various research and policy areas. The International Conference is co-organized by the Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut, and the Syrian Center for Tobacco Studies, in collaboration with the WHO FCTC Secretariat and the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean.

The conference is tentatively scheduled for 6-7 November 2018, and is planned to take place at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon.

Parties where waterpipe tobacco smoking is an area in which further action is needed, are welcome to send representatives to the Conference. For more details, please, contact Jessica Najm at jn44@aub.edu.lb.

Please, also follow KH-WTS on Facebook and Twitter.

WHO FCTC Secretariat’s Knowledge Hub on Taxation

31 May 2018 – World No Tobacco Day

In celebration of World No Tobacco Day, the Knowledge Hub shared a newspaper article from a local South African Newspaper called “Business Day”, which ties together the economic burden of illicit trade of tobacco and how the government can implement policies to reduce this burden. In relation to the WHO FCTC guidelines, the author advises the Government of South Africa to ratify the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, scheduled to enter into force on 25 September 2018.
Other activities to support WHO FCTC Parties

The Knowledge Hub conducted an in-country technical assistance mission to Vanuatu, co-funded by WHO's Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO). Additionally, a member of the Hub joined the WHO FCTC Secretariat's needs assessment mission in Zambia. The mission in Zambia was carried out as part of the FCTC 2030 project.

Furthermore, one staff from the Hub travelled to Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR for two weeks for ongoing in-country technical assistance in collaboration with Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA). The trip entailed presenting and explaining the results of the TETSiM\(^1\) tobacco tax simulation model (adapted for these specific countries) to relevant policymakers and having smaller workshops with more junior policymakers to explain the mechanics of the model.

Next workshop on tobacco tax modelling

The Hub is organizing the workshop on tobacco tax modelling on 22 to 26 October 2018. Interested Parties are welcome to contact the Knowledge Hub at http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/taxation/training/.

WHO FCTC Secretariat’s Knowledge Hub on International Cooperation

Workshop on maximizing transparency of COP delegations

The International Cooperation Centre for Tobacco Control (ICCTC - Knowledge Hub of the Secretariat) organized, with the support of the Ministry of Health of Panama, a meeting in Panama City from June 4 to 6 2018, aiming to analyze a proposal of decision on maximizing the transparency of the delegations to the Conference of the Parties (COP). Following up on this meeting, the Knowledge Hub organized a conference via WebEx to the attendees of that meeting in Panama.

This activity supported Parties in their preparation for the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties.

\(^1\) TETSiM is a tool for tobacco control advocates and government officials considering the impact of a change in tobacco excise taxes on a number of variables. Useful simulation for considering impact of changes in tobacco excise taxes on a number of variables. By changing some of the input parameters, you can see how this affects the output values. https://open.uct.ac.za/handle/11427/2537
WHO FCTC Secretariat’s Knowledge Hub on Surveillance

**Surveillance Webinar Series 2018**

The Knowledge Hub is planning a webinar series to assist Parties with the establishment or strengthening of national surveillance systems, or more generally, implementation of Article 20 of the Convention, with the final objective to guide policy making for tobacco control.

The webinar series will consist of five sessions, their programmes will be announced soon. For further information, please, visit the Knowledge Hub's website at: [http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/surveillance/](http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/surveillance/).

**Provision of advice to LMIC Parties on their tobacco surveillance systems**

The Knowledge Hub on Surveillance received a small grant from the Convention Secretariat to provide in-country advice to health ministries in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) on how to establish state-of-the-art comprehensive tobacco surveillance systems, taking into consideration the health, economic, environmental and social perspective, following the provisions of Article 20 of the FCTC.

Four country visits, with two happening during 2018, will be organized to those Parties identified and selected by the Convention Secretariat, in consultation with WHO regional offices.

Parties that have made progress in this area, but are still to make the decisive final steps towards establishing their surveillance systems, should contact the Convention Secretariat at fctcsecretariat@who.int and indicate their interest in receiving advice as part of this initiative.

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

**Webinar Series on Smokeless Tobacco Policies: The Scientific Basis for Regulation of Smokeless Tobacco**

The third webinar, of the seven in the series, took place on 23 August 2018. Dr. Mark Parascandola and Dr. Ghazi Zaatari (introduced above) were the featured speakers and shared their perspective and research experience on the scientific basis for regulation of smokeless tobacco. Dr. Mark Parascandola, is an epidemiologist with the Tobacco Control Research Branch in the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), United States of America.

This webinar series is aimed at raising awareness on matters related to SLT use and control. The webinars will discuss the policy measures and approaches that could be applied by Parties and other stakeholders within their jurisdictions to implement interventions to control, in an effort to prevent and control Smokeless Tobacco use.
The presentations of the Third Webinar of the Series are available at: http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/smokeless-tobacco/fctc-global-knowledge-hub-smokeless-tobacco-third-webinar-series/

The next webinar is scheduled for September 2018. Please follow the announcements for the next webinar sessions at: http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/smokeless-tobacco/smokeless-tobacco-control-webinar-series-2018/.

For more information or any question related to the webinar series please contact the WHO FCTC Secretariat’s Global Knowledge Hub on Smokeless Tobacco (KH-SLT), based in Noida, India: Ms. Anshika Chandra, Project Officer, at anshikac6@gmail.com or Mr. Kumar Chandan, Project Technical Officer at kumar_chandan25@yahoo.com.

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

**8th International Legal Training Course on law and noncommunicable disease prevention**

The McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer recently completed its 8th International Legal Training Course on law and noncommunicable disease prevention. 14 participants from 12 WHO FCTC parties – Botswana, Laos, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Vietnam, and Zambia – attended the course, held at Cancer Council Victoria in Melbourne, Australia from 30 April to 18 May 2018. We were pleased to also be joined by representatives of the WHO Regional Office for Africa and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

Parties interested in participating in any future training sessions, contact the Convention Secretariat at fctcsecretariat@who.int or write directly to the Knowledge Hub at: http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/legal-challenges/contact-us/.

The impact of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in defending legal challenges to tobacco control measures

Suzanne Zhou, Jonathan Liberman and Evita Ricafort from the McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer have published a paper as part of a Special Supplement of “Tobacco Control”, to examine the contributions of the WHO FCTC to the decisions of courts in resolving legal challenges to tobacco control measures.

This paper is one in the series summarizing the WHO FCTC impact assessment exercise, a project mandated by the Conference of the Parties. The special supplement of “Tobacco Control” is part of the efforts to disseminate the findings and lessons learned during the impact assessment process.2

“Tobacco Control” is an international peer reviewed journal focusing on the complexion and consequences of global tobacco use. The paper discusses the impact of the WHO FCTC in regards to court decisions and legal challenges. A total of 96 court decisions were reviewed by the researchers to determine the number of cases where the WHO FCTC was cited and how the guidelines contributed to the results of the case.


Workshop on the WTO Panel Report on Australia’s Tobacco Plain Packaging Laws: Findings and Implications, 12-16 November 2018, Melbourne, Australia

On 28 June 2018, the World Trade Organization (WTO) released the Panel Report on the challenges to Australia’s tobacco plain packaging laws. The panel found in favour of Australia, dismissing the claims brought by Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, and Indonesia. The panel found that tobacco plain packaging is not unnecessarily trade restrictive under the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement (TBT Agreement) and does not infringe intellectual property protections required under the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

For further details on the WTO panel’s findings and decision, please see: http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/legal-challenges/initial-overview-wto-panel-decision-australia-plain-packaging/.

In this context, the Knowledge Hub will hold a workshop in Melbourne, Australia from 12-16 November 2018 to examine the key findings of the Panel’s Report. The workshop will explore the implications for tobacco plain packaging specifically, and WHO FCTC implementation and public health more broadly.

The content and format of the workshop will be primarily targeted towards:

- government officials working at the intersection of tobacco control / prevention of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and international trade law (for example, from departments of health, trade, foreign affairs or justice); and
- government officials working on the legal aspects of the development, implementation or defense of tobacco plain (standardized) packaging laws.

The workshop will deal in detail with technical legal content, and will assume a sound working knowledge of the legal issues and governance frameworks to be covered. The workshop will be conducted in English.

For more information on the workshop and on applying to participate in the workshop please contact samantha.robertson@cancervic.org.au.

WHO FCTC Secretariat’s Knowledge Hub on Article 5.3

Training Module on Article 5.3

The Article 5.3 Knowledge Hub developed a training module on preventing tobacco industry interference. Please write to the Knowledge Hub to get advice and access to the module at http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/article-53/contact-us/.

GGTC selected as partner in Bloomberg Philanthropies’ STOP project

The Stopping Tobacco Organizations and Products (STOP) competition, launched by Bloomberg Philanthropies in March 2018, has selected the Global Centre for Good Governance in Tobacco Control (GGTC), the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub for Article 5.3, together with two key partners, to lead this global tobacco industry watchdog. The other partners are the Tobacco Control Research Group of the University of Bath in the UK and the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (the Union), with the sub-grantee Vital Strategies.

The initiative is a three-year, $20 million grant, aiming to create a global monitoring system that complements existing efforts in identifying industry deception and industry’s tactics to undermine tobacco control. This partnership will publish investigative reports, as well as provide
tools and training materials to low- and middle-income countries to push back against the industry's influence.

For more information please check: http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/article-53/knowledge-hub-updates/.

The website of the Knowledge Hub is continuously updated, with new resources uploaded. Please check them at: http://untobaccocontrol.org/kh/article-53/.

The Secretariat will continue to inform Parties 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.