Rationale for Establishing Tobacco Product Regulation

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Conference of the Parties - Technical Briefing
Geneva, 7 February 2006
WHO Strategy for Tobacco Control

- Preventing uptake of tobacco use
- Promote tobacco use cessation
- Protecting the public from exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke
- Tobacco product regulation
WHO Scientific Advisory Committee on Tobacco Product Regulation (SACTob) established in 2000

The Director-General formalised the status of SACTob into a Study Group (TobReg) in 2003

Has a mechanism to report to the WHO’s Executive Board in order to draw attention of Member States to WHO’s efforts in tobacco product regulation, which is a novel and complex area of tobacco control
TobReg - Objectives

- Advises WHO about scientifically sound recommendations to Member States addressing the most effective and evidence-based means to achieve a coordinated regulatory framework for tobacco products
- Based on cutting edge research on tobacco product issues
- Aimed to fill the regulatory gaps in tobacco control
WHO FCTC and TobReg

TobReg can assist the Conference of the Parties in the development of guidelines on tobacco product regulation:

- Regulation of the contents of tobacco products
- Regulation of tobacco product disclosures
- Regulation of packaging and labelling
Regulation of Chemical Products

**Tobacco products**
- Very few countries with appropriate regulation

**Well-regulated other chemical products**
- Drugs
- Pesticides
- Food additives
- Industrial chemicals
- Cosmetics
Principles of Chemical Product Regulation

- Comprehensive hazard characterisation through toxicological testing
- Exposure assessment (for existing products)
- Dossier submission to regulatory authority
- Data on hazard and exposure evaluated by scientific experts
- Acceptance/prohibition of marketing product
- Post-marketing surveillance of product safety
Complexity of Tobacco Product Evaluation

- Hundreds of constituents in unburned product
- More than 4000 chemicals in smoke of burned products
- Generation of chemicals in emitted smoke influenced by product’s ingredients and design, and by how product is used
- Health effects can be determined as much by how the product is used as by its emissions, e.g.:
  - Pattern and intensity of puffing a cigarette influence the nature and amount of emissions
  - Number of years of smoking influences disease risk
- Products evolve rapidly
Laboratory Activities in Tobacco Product Regulation

- Laboratory capacity is essential to enable implementation of the WHO FCTC Articles 9-11
- Laboratory research to understand better the nature of tobacco products:
  - How they work and their effects
  - How they might be modified, e.g., by new ingredients and design
- Laboratory testing according to standardized methods to assess product performance
WHO Tobacco Laboratory Network (TobLabNet)

- Formally established in April 2005

*Mandate of TobLabNet:*

- Function as a global testing and research capacity to test tobacco products for regulatory compliance
- Perform research and develop harmonised and validated standards for contents and emissions testing
- Share tobacco research and testing standards and results
- Work on harmonised reporting of results
Initial TobLabNet Activities

- Performed global survey of tobacco testing laboratories and assessed capabilities of each laboratory
- Initiated round-robin testing exercise of tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide in smoke to evaluate inter-comparability of results
- Will conduct training workshop for developing country public health scientists in order for them to learn tobacco control methodologies and skills
Main Items in Regulatory Oversight of Tobacco Products

*Should include evaluation of:*

- Who is using the product (existing users, former never users, children)
- Physical-chemical characteristics of the tobacco and tobacco smoke
- Uptake of toxicants (both by smokers and by non-smokers)
- Toxicity
- Addiction potential
- Disease risk
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