

UPDATE ON WHO FCTC AND MPOWER

Date: 18 March 2015

Time: 11:00-12:30

Room: ICC

Title: 10 years of the WHO FCTC

Description: On 27 February 2015 the Parties celebrated 10 years since entry into force of the first global public health treaty. The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) marked a milestone in public health and provided new legal dimensions for international health cooperation.

So far, 180 Parties around the world have ratified the Convention and committed themselves towards its full implementation. Achievements of the Parties to the Convention help protecting the health of their citizens, and are an inspiration to everyone involved in tobacco control. They are assisted in their efforts by partners such as WHO and its regional and country offices, the observers to the Conference of the Parties, including civil society organizations, as well as donors and all other stakeholders and international partners, including the United Nations system organizations, that have not spared the technical and financial means required to assist countries in need.

The WHO FCTC, through exemplifying how an international legal regime could become an appropriate response to the effect of globalization on health, opened a new phase in global health policy as well as in global health governance. Recent years have seen growing political recognition of the role of the WHO FCTC as a catalyst in the global health and development agendas, including through its promotion of multi-sectoral and international cooperation, with regard to a range of health challenges in the 21st century, such as the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and their controllable risk factors. The instruments developed under the guidance of and adopted by the COP, such as the new Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products and the seven guidelines for implementation of specific requirements of the Convention could give further impetus and strengthen, when implemented fully and comprehensively, the impact of the Convention on the health of nations.

Objectives of the plenary:

- Objective 1: To briefly summarize the history of development and adoption of the first ever public health treaty.
- Objective 2: To provide examples of strong achievements in implementation of the WHO FCTC.
- Objective 3: To highlight contributions by key actors towards assisting Parties to the Convention in their implementation efforts.
- Objective 4: To share the vision of the future development of the Convention, in the light of the decisions of the 6th session of the Conference of the Parties.