

## UPDATE ON WHO FCTC AND MPOWER

Date: 18 March 2015

Time: 14:00-15:30

Room: ICC

**Tri-plenary 3 Title:** **The Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products - next steps for entry into force**

**Description:** The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) recognizes that illicit tobacco trade contributes to the tobacco epidemic. Illicit tobacco products - whether smuggled or illegally manufactured - are estimated to account for around 10% of the global cigarette market and an estimated loss of government revenue of 60 billion USD per year globally. Illicit tobacco products are cheaper and more accessible, especially to vulnerable groups such as youth and the poor.

The international community has responded to the threat of illicit tobacco trade by negotiating and adopting an international treaty: the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, based on Article 15 of the WHO FCTC. Adopted in 2012, the Protocol is open for ratification and accession by all Parties to the WHO FCTC. Its entry into force will require 40 ratifications. 54 FCTC Parties signed the Protocol, and as of 7 January 2015, six have also ratified it (Nicaragua, Uruguay, Gabon, Mongolia, Austria and Spain).

### **Objectives of the tri-plenary:**

- Objective 1: The session will provide an overview of the status of the Protocol. A representative of a Party that has ratified the Protocol will share the experience of the process of ratification, including challenges.
- Objective 2: The session will also address obstacles that Parties face in the ratification process, possibilities for facilitation of Protocol ratification, and proposed approaches to achieving the necessary multi-sectoral discussion by Parties.

**Chairs/Moderator:** Dr Franz Pietsch  
Head of Department for Tobacco Control, Alcohol, Non-substance related Addictions and International Affairs of Addiction, Ministry of Health, Austria

**14:00-15:20**

### **MODERATED PANEL DISCUSSION**

- Panelist 1: Dr Vera Da Costa e Silva  
Head, WHO FCTC Secretariat, Switzerland
- Panelist 2: Mr Caxton Masudi  
Excise Policy and Administration, Large Tax Payers Office, Kenya Revenue Authority, Kenya
- Panelist 3: Mr Pranab K Das  
Anti-Smuggling Unit, Central Board of Excise and Customs, India
- Panelist 4: Mr Francis Thompson  
Director of Policy and Advocacy, Framework Convention Alliance, Canada
- Panelist 5: Mr Mark Goodchild  
Economist, World Health Organisation Tobacco Free Initiative, Switzerland

**15:20-15:30**

Conclusions and summary by Dr Franz Pietsch