

15. Towards the implementation of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products

Tuesday, 17 March 2015, 14:00 - 18:00



Type Workshop

Track Supply side: FCTC Art. 15,16,17

Topic Illicit trade

Organised by WHO and WHO FCTC Secretariat

Duration Half-day

Max attendees 100

Meeting type Open meeting

Description The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) recognises that illicit trade of tobacco products is a major contributor 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 12 January 2015, six States had also become Parties to the Protocol – Nicaragua, Uruguay, Gabon, Mongolia, Austria and Spain. Parties' needs for support in the ratification process have to be identified in order to facilitate ratification and entry into force of the Protocol.

Target audience Public health practitioners, economists, lawyers, civil society organisations, students, academics and researchers, government officials.

Objectives

1. Raise awareness of the Protocol provisions
2. Discuss technical matters in more detail, including the tracking and tracing regime to be established under the Protocol

Expected outcome The workshops aims to raise awareness of the Protocol provisions and to discuss technical matters in more detail, including the tracking and tracing regime to be established under the Protocol and how to counter interference by the tobacco industry. Participants are encouraged to share their experiences, successes and challenges encountered in the process of ratifying the Protocol.

Keywords Illicit trade; protocol provisions; interference; Article 15

Coordinator(s) Vinayak Prasad (Switzerland), Ulrike Schwerdfeger (Switzerland)

Chair(s) Austin Rowan (Belgium)

Presentations

- » Panel discussion I: Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, WHO FCTC & the Protocol, Track & Trace systems, TI interference in countering illicit trade
- » Panelist 1: Illicit trade in tobacco products – the magnitude of the problem and enforcement challenges: World Customs Organization
- » Panelist 2: Key elements of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products
- » Panelist 3: Experience in implementing and financing a tracking and tracing system
- » Panelist 4: Tobacco industry interference in the elimination of illicit trade in tobacco products
- » Group exercise: looking at the opportunities and challenges in scaling up the Protocol
- » Presentations: Methods to measure illicit trade in tobacco products