

Tobacco Control in Developing Countries



A Quick Glance at the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

WHAT:

The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) will be an international legal instrument that will circumscribe the global spread of tobacco products. The Framework Convention will establish the legal parameters and structures of the new global public health tool. The related protocols will be separate substantive agreements and may address the following areas: advertising and promotion, smuggling, taxes, subsidies and agricultural diversification.

WHY:

The FCTC¹ will be an important means of protecting public health around the world as it will help counter the spectacular rise and global spread of tobacco use. In essence, it will improve transnational tobacco control and cooperation. The FCTC will help advance national tobacco control policies, by tackling cross-border issues such as smuggling.

WHEN:

In May 1999 and May 2000, the World Health Assembly unanimously adopted resolutions mapping the process for developing and negotiating the FCTC. Formal negotiations on the FCTC are scheduled for 16-21 October 2000, following public hearings which will take place on 12-13 October. It is foreseen that the World Health Assembly will adopt the FCTC no later than May 2003.

WHO:

The FCTC will be negotiated by the World Health Organization's (WHO) Member States. Two Working Group meetings took place in October 1999 and March 2000; here delegates proposed draft elements for the FCTC. The Ministries of Health of Member States will participate throughout the negotiations. Delegates from other ministries, such as Foreign Affairs, Finance, Environment, Labour, Justice, Trade, Education and Agriculture are also expected to provide input into the negotiation process.

For more detailed information, please see the FCTC Primer on the website of the WHO Tobacco Free Initiative:

<http://tobacco.who.int/en/fctc/primer.asp>

¹ FCTC is used here and hereafter to mean the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control *and* its related protocols.

The 512-page book, *Tobacco Control in Developing Countries*, is an authoritative and comprehensive study that examines such key issues as poverty and smoking, rationale for government intervention, taxation, advertising and promotion bans, smuggling, trade and the supply side impact of control policies. Building on the comparative advantages of WHO and the World Bank in epidemiology and health economics, an international team of 40 professionals from 13 countries, under the guidance of Dr Prabhat Jha and Dr Frank Chaloupka, prepared this book over a period of three years. It is targeted primarily at ministries, academics and health professionals engaged in tobacco control.

The book is available in English only; Price: US\$ 49.50 paperback ISBN 0192632469. For more details or to place your order, please contact:

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