

Additional Recommendations for MOP3 Agenda Items

Third session of the Meeting of the Parties to The Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products,
12 – 15 February 2024, Panama City, Panama

Agenda Item	What is being Proposed	GATC Key Recommendations
<p>6.1 – Improving the reporting system of the WHO FCTC</p> <p>Document: FCTC/MOP/3/7</p>	<p>Document FCTC/MOP/3/7 describes the work carried out under the guidance of the Bureau to improve the reporting system of the Protocol. The report contains a proposal to improve the reporting system. The MOP is invited to note document FCTC/MOP/3/7, consider the proposed revised reporting instrument for the Protocol contained in Annex 2 and adopt the draft decision contained in Annex 3 of the report.</p>	<p>GATC welcomes the proposed revised reporting instrument of the Protocol that aims to decrease the reporting burden on the Parties, address duplications, and better exploit existing data sources amongst others. We also welcome the Convention Secretariat’s proposal in the draft decision to develop a new online reporting platform which we would like to see being used for the next reporting cycle.</p>
<p>7.2 – Proposed Workplan and Budget for the financial period 2024–2025</p> <p>Documents: FCTC/MOP3/9</p>	<p>The MOP is invited to consider the report and adopt the Workplan and Budget for the financial period 2024–2025 contained in Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of document FCTC/MOP/3/9.</p>	<p>GATC commends the Convention Secretariat for their dedicated work on the proposed workplan and budget for the upcoming biennium. Implementation of key measures of the protocol, such as licensing, tracking and tracing, due diligence and free zones is too low. GATC recommends that Parties consider how to address the substantial and sustainable financial and technical resources that are required to ensure successful implementation of the Protocol, particularly in low-and middle-income countries and discuss an action plan for the next 4 years on how to improve the implementation rate of key measures of the Protocol</p> <p>Given that almost 70% of the MOP activities budget comes from non-Assessed Contributions, we recommend that Parties who are able consider providing</p>

		<p>Extrabudgetary Funds at this key moment of growth for a relatively new Protocol.</p> <p>GATC notes that the level of non-paid assessed contributions is very high and has reached US\$5 million on 30 April 2023. This requires additional and urgent action to encourage Parties to meet their financial obligations to ensure sustainable resources to fund the Protocol.</p>
<p>7.4 – Investment Fund for implementation of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products: FCTC/MOP/3/11</p>	<p>Document FCTC/MOP/3/12 describes the arrangements made to launch the Investment Fund for implementation of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products with decision FCTC/MOP2(8). The report proposes the establishment of a single Oversight Committee, which would serve the WHO FCTC Investment Fund and the Investment Fund to support implementation of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, under the direction of the separate governing bodies of the treaties. The MOP is invited to note document FCTC/MOP/3/11, to consider the terms of reference for a single Oversight Committee contained in Annex 1 and to adopt the draft decision contained in Annex 2 of the report.</p>	<p>In light of the Convention Secretariat’s need for additional sustainable resources, GATC recognises the need and importance of launching the Investment Fund without any further delay. We therefore support the draft decision in annex 2 to establish a single Oversight Committee serving the WHO FCTC and the Protocol Investment Funds made up of up to six members, reflecting to as great an extent as possible equitable representation from the regions and one representative from an NGO accredited as observer to the COP and/or the MOP to act as an Observer on the committee.</p> <p>We also support the terms of reference for the single oversight committee as proposed in Annex 1.</p> <p>We would also urge the Convention Secretariat to make the necessary arrangements to establish the oversight committee in a timely manner to ensure the Investment Funds are operational as soon as possible.</p>