

Additional Recommendations for COP10 Agenda Items

Tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control,
5 – 10 February 2024, Panama City, Panama

Agenda Item	What is being Proposed	GATC Key Recommendations
<p>7.1 – Improving the reporting system of the WHO FCTC</p> <p>Document: FCTC/COP/10/13</p>	<p>Document FCTC/COP/10/13 describes the work carried out under the guidance of the Bureau to improve the reporting system of the WHO FCTC. The report contains a proposal to improve the reporting system, including in relation to the reporting instrument of the WHO FCTC. The COP is invited to note document FCTC/COP/10/13, consider the proposed revised reporting instrument for the WHO FCTC 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 WHO FCTC 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>8.1 – Performance and progress reports</p> <p>Document: FCTC/COP/10/16</p>	<p>The COP is invited to note the performance and progress reports for the reported periods contained in document FCTC/COP/10/16. Further, the COP is invited to consider adopting the draft decision contained in Annex 5 of document FCTC/COP/10/16 to adopt an extension to 2030 of the <i>Global Strategy to Accelerate Tobacco Control: Advancing Sustainable Development through the Implementation of the WHO FCTC 2019–2025</i>, as recommended by the Bureau.</p>	<p>We commend the work of the Convention Secretariat over the last biennium, especially given the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. We support the proposed decision to extend the Global Strategy until 2030 to ensure coherence and alignment with the <i>2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i>. We also would very much welcome the proposal for the Convention Secretariat to consult a group of experts and stakeholders, including civil society, especially those involved in the development of the Global Strategy, to assess the Global Strategy as a “living document to be reviewed as necessary” and provide suggestions concerning any necessary adjustments.</p>
<p>8.2 – Proposed Workplan and Budget for the</p>	<p>The COP is invited to consider the report and adopt the Workplan and Budget for</p>	<p>GATC supports strengthening the investment in Secretariat staff from</p>

<p>financial period 2024–2025</p> <p>Documents: FCTC/COP/10/17 and FCTC/COP/10/INF.DOC./1</p>	<p>the financial period 2024–2025 contained in Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of document FCTC/COP/10/17, and to note the additional information contained in the Explanatory note FCTC/COP/10/INF.DOC./1.</p>	<p>the Assessed Contributions to the budget to ensure the long-term sustainability of the WHO FCTC. GATC would like to remind Parties that as well as supporting the COP and the implementation of the FCTC, the Convention Secretariat plays a crucial role in promoting tobacco control at the national and global level.</p> <p>However, GATC is concerned that implementation of the WHO FCTC continues to come mainly from Extrabudgetary Funding and calls on Parties to seek to commit Extrabudgetary Contributions early in the biennium to support the crucial WHO FCTC implementation work.</p> <p>Assessed Contributions represent the only predictable income at present for the Convention Secretariat to carry out the workplan as agreed by the COP. GATC recognizes that the global economy is still recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, given the short and long term economic, health and social return on investment from funding implementation of the WHO FCTC, we would recommend COP consider a modest increase in assessed contributions to support ongoing implementation.</p>
<p>8.3 – WHO FCTC Investment Fund Document: FCTC/COP/10/18</p>	<p>Document FCTC/COP/10/18 describes the arrangements made to launch the WHO FCTC Investment Fund, in accordance with decision FCTC/COP9(13). The report proposes the establishment of a single Oversight Committee, which would serve the WHO FCTC Investment Fund and the</p>	<p>Given the Convention Secretariat’s need for additional sustainable resources, GATC recognizes the need for and importance of launching the Investment Fund without any further delay. We therefore support the draft decision in Annex 2 to establish one single</p>

	<p>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 COP is invited to note document FCTC/COP/10/18, 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>Oversight Committee serving both 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 Oversight Committee.</p> <p>We also support the terms of reference for the single Oversight Committee as proposed and 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 Fund is operational as soon as possible.</p>
<p>8.6 – Possible amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties</p> <p>Document: FCTC/COP/10/21</p>	<p>The COP is invited to consider possible amendments to the Rules of Procedures of the COP, as recommended by the Bureau, contained in Annex 1 of document FCTC/COP/10/21, and to adopt the draft decision contained in Annex 2 of the document.</p>	<p>GATC welcomes the changes made in the Rules of Procedure to ensure coordination between the governing bodies of the WHO FCTC and the Protocol. We also welcome the amendments to Rule 15 regarding webcasting and arranging for virtual sessions in extraordinary situations.</p> <p>We support the draft decision in annex 2 notably to apply with immediate effect the amendment of Rule 60 in relation to the provisional adoption of the report of each session of the COP and that verbatim records are understood to include audio files.</p>
<p>Maximizing Transparency Initiative (proposed by Ecuador and potentially supported by AFRO region)</p>		<p>GATC applauds the regional intervention presented by Ecuador. At the eighth session of the COP, and subsequently at the first Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, Parties</p>

		<p>agreed on important measures to maximize transparency of treaty negotiations. These measures enhance Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC, a fundamental aspect of the treaty which guides Parties to protect negotiations from the undue influence of the tobacco industry. We encourage Parties to follow in the spirit of this decision and the initiative undertaken by Ecuador one more time to ensure that we protect treaty negotiations free from the influence of the tobacco industry.</p>
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