



## **Protection of the Environment**

This document relates to item 6.4 of the provisional COP agenda and corresponds to document FCTC/COP/10/X

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

### ***Key recommendations***

- GATC welcomes and supports the spirit of the draft decision proposed by Brazil.
- GATC encourages Parties to address the environmental harms caused by the production, marketing, distribution, consumption and post consumption of tobacco and nicotine products at national level and to include WHO FCTC principles when engaging with UN environmental processes.
- GATC calls on the FCTC Secretariat to foster coordination and collaboration with entities in the United Nations (UN) system pursuing environmental mandates in order to raise awareness of the importance of the WHO FCTC in the fulfilment of environmental objectives and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

### ***Key messages***

- Tobacco production and consumption have a significant impact on the environment.
- WHO FCTC Article 18 is one of the least implemented Articles in the WHO FCTC due to industry interference.
- The Article 18 draft decision will foster a whole of government approach in the implementation of the WHO FCTC and strengthen policy coherence between health and environmental objectives. Furthermore, the proposed decision on Article 18 will encourage cooperation between the WHO FCTC Secretariat and UN entities with environmental mandates. This approach is in direct alignment with the Global Strategy to Accelerate Tobacco Control, which aims to promote a coordinated and focused “whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach to achieve policy coherence, both domestically and internationally”.

### **What is being proposed**

The draft decision points to the significant environmental impact of tobacco production, consumption and post consumption including cigarette butts and notes that Article 18 is one of the least implemented articles in the WHO FCTC in part because of industry interference. The draft decision also recalls that implementation of the WHO FCTC helps progress towards the 2030 UN Development Agenda.

Moreover, the draft decision calls on Parties to strengthen implementation of Article 18, it invites Parties to use litigation to hold the industry accountable for environmental harms and to explore ways to cooperate and advance sustainable agriculture to replace tobacco growing in alignment with Article 17.

Furthermore, it calls on Parties to address the environmental harm caused by tobacco in UN environmental platforms like the negotiations of the UN Treaty to End Plastic Pollution, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and other UN treaties. The Decision also requests the Framework Convention Secretariat to support Parties with the implementation of Article 18 and to work with the Article 17-18 Knowledge Hub to promote cooperation in this area.

### **Why this is important**

The environmental impact of tobacco production and consumption is significant. The WHO's 2022 World No Tobacco Day campaign, "Tobacco: Threat to our environment," raised awareness about the environmental harms caused by tobacco highlighting that 600,000,000 trees are chopped down every year to make cigarettes, 84,000,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emission released into the air raising global temperatures and 22,000,000,000 liters of water used to make cigarettes.<sup>1</sup> Given that the 2021 Global Progress Report on Implementation of the WHO FCTC stated that Article 18 is one of the least successfully implemented by Parties with tobacco industry interference being a key barrier<sup>2</sup> the Adoption of Article 18 Decision by COP 10 is critical as it will:

- Encourage whole of government and whole of society cooperation and collaboration to address the environmental impact of tobacco production and consumption.
- Strengthen implementation of the WHO FCTC, and increase policy coherence between the WHO FCTC and national and international treaties like the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution, with the aim of tackling hazard waste from tobacco products including cigarette butts.
- Accelerate work towards implementation of Article 18 and 17, including seeking economically viable and sustainable agricultural alternatives to tobacco growing.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-no-tobacco-day/2022>

<sup>2</sup> <https://fctc.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240041769>