

# COP9 BULLETIN

WEDNESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER, 2021



## AN OPPORTUNITY WE CAN'T MISS: COP9 MUST ESTABLISH AN INVESTMENT FUND TO SUPPORT MORE SUSTAINABLE AND PREDICTABLE FUNDING OF TREATY WORK

We had a blockbuster second day of COP9, marked by a general sense of collaboration and efficiency among Parties. This is due in no small part to the preparation and hard work of the Bureau and the Convention Secretariat respectively. The new language presented in a revised draft of the agenda 'omnibus decision,' along with Parties' drive to move the agenda forward facilitated its smooth adoption. This set a positive tone as the COP split into its two Committees, and we commend the Chairs of these committees for facilitating relevant discussions and, in the case of Committee A, ensuring that substantive discussions would indeed be deferred to COP10. In a real triumph, Committee B worked swiftly to adopt the workplan and budget for the proposed 2022-23 biennium. The Secretariat's admirable work to prepare the budget in advance and to provide multiple rounds of consultation with Parties most certainly paved the way for this success.

We hope to see this momentum carry forward into day 3, when Committee B will commence discussions on the proposed investment fund, the establishment of which would be among the most important achievements of COP9. The investment fund is proposed to act as a third source of revenue for the COP budget, in addition to Assessed Contributions and Extrabudgetary Funding. It would act as a reliable and sustainable resource to support the Convention Secretariat's work to fulfill its coordination role and to implement the COP's workplan. Further, we can have confidence in the design of the fund given the input provided by experts from the World Bank as well as the WHO Finance Department.

Generating sustainable revenue for the Secretariat is a key piece of the puzzle as we collectively seek to accelerate progress on FCTC implementation. The additional US\$2-million that the fund is expected to provide each year would help fill gaps in budget activities that are not covered by Assessed Contributions. Combining this flexible funding with Parties making strong commitments to providing Extrabudgetary Funding – which we hope to see more of – would facilitate more work in line with the Global Strategy and enhance progress towards achieving our collective goal of reducing tobacco use prevalence by 30% by 2025.

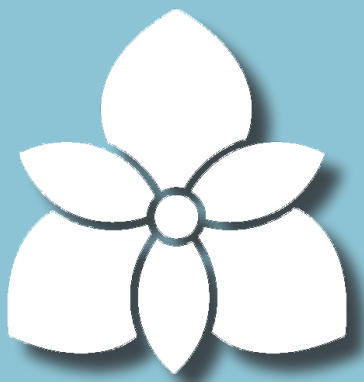
As we know, a lack of sustainable funding for global tobacco control has been a major impediment to implementing the FCTC. Adopting the proposed investment fund is a welcome step forward in addressing part of this gap and creating global momentum for investing in tobacco control. We look forward to the fund acting as the first of many steps in this regard.



On November 9th, the Canadian Cancer Society released the 7th edition of its report, **Cigarette Package Health Warnings: International Status Report**, in [English](#) and [French](#).

The report finds tremendous global momentum supporting plain packaging, with 38 countries/territories moving forward on the measure, including 21 adopting it, 3 having it in practice, and 14 working on it. Further, there are now 134 countries/territories requiring picture health warnings on cigarette packages. Warning size is increasing, with 70 countries/territories now with a size of at least 65%, and 10 with at least 85%.

The continuing progress on these key measures should encourage yet more countries to adopt similar requirements.



ORCHID AWARD

### Committee B

**For passing a well-prepared and transparent budget.**



DIRTY ASHTRAY

### Honduras

**For attempting to reopen the text of the omnibus decision for further discussion after its adoption.**

## INTERVIEW WITH DOUGLAS WEBB, PHD, MANAGER, HEALTH AND INNOVATIVE FINANCING, HIV, HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT GROUP - ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FUNDING TREATIES

Kelsey Romeo-Stuppy, Action on Smoking and Health (ASH USA) and Megan Arendt, Action on Smoking and Health (ASH USA)

### First and foremost, why is it important to fully fund the FCTC?

We need to dispel the idea of fully funding the treaty because there's no such thing. There will always be a funding scarcity and countries will need to make strategic decisions based on their priorities. The medium-term strategic framework is a pragmatic approach to implement a treaty in the context of scarcity.

### Why is it important to prioritize FCTC funding while many countries are still heavily investing in COVID-19 relief?

If there's a time to accelerate NCD prevention and control, and the FCTC related to the key SDG risk factor, it's now. COVID has shone another spotlight on tobacco use as a major public health concern. In the midst of COVID response and recovery, civil society and governments have the opportunity to integrate tobacco control, with the FCTC mainstreamed into these plans and financed accordingly.

### Can you give us an example of a treaty that is (or has been) well-funded and how that has made a difference?

One example is the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The Ozone hole represented a common existential threat that was undeniable, with powerful imagery of the hole growing. It raised \$4-billion and the

ozone hole is now closing, so it seems to be a success.

The age of massive global international instruments resourced through public financing alone I think is over. We're looking more at combinations - impact financing, green bonds, SDG-aligned bonds and other innovative financing mechanisms.

### What have other treaties done to help solve funding gaps?

The UN is always in an underfunded state. If member states under value and under invest in treaties, then we are under monitoring and under executing on human rights instruments. We need to make the best of the treaties we have and strengthen the authorities which govern them (COP and Secretariat). Because they do work when they're empowered, but we haven't chosen to go that path. It's a huge mistake.

Getting the FCTC as a target in the SDGs was a huge achievement because the FCTC is in a development arrangement with its own constituencies, dialogues, accountabilities and reporting. But this inclusion has not been capitalized on, and multilateral institutions need to be reminded. Furthermore, the time for Article 6 acceleration is now. How to finance development is written right there: tobacco taxation.

### What is your biggest concern about lack of funding for the FCTC?

There's a window of opportunity linked to COVID and pandemic preparedness, response, and financing. It's time for a real look at instruments and mechanisms on global public health - the FCTC should be front and center as a successful example of framework legislation for public health that's been under invested in.

My concern is that the FCTC is seen to be an instrument only for tobacco control when it's more than that. It's an instrument for public health and sustainable human development more generally. Tobacco control is only where it starts. From a development perspective, the FCTC is a goldmine. The travesty is, it's not recognized as such.

## REMINDER!

**FCA COP9 Policy Brief documents are available on our website and can be [accessed here.](#)**



FRAMEWORK CONVENTION  
**ALLIANCE**

FOLLOW US AT:

