

Additional Recommendations for COP11 Agenda Items

Eleventh Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control,
17 – 22 November 2025, Geneva, Switzerland

Agenda Item	What is being Proposed	GATC Key Recommendations
6.1 – Performance and progress reports Document: FCTC/COP/11/12	The COP is invited to note the performance and progress reports for the reported periods contained in document FCTC/COP/11/12.	We must urgently recognize that the primary barriers to effective tobacco control are shifting, with the lack of financial resources now amplified by critical shortages in human resources and the persistent interference of the tobacco industry. As external technical assistance cannot constitute a sustainable financing model for national implementation, countries must transition to domestic resource mobilization (DRM). The most effective pathway for achieving sustainable and predictable funding is the implementation of Article 6 which provides a “triple win” of increased government revenue, reduced tobacco use, and a dedicated funding stream for health initiatives. We urge all Parties to prioritize and significantly strengthen these tax policies, ensuring Official Development Assistance (ODA) serves a catalytic role aligned with national priorities, rather than substituting domestic investment. In addition, we request the Secretariat to present to COP12 an updated Funding Gap Tool and Global Investment Case detailing the high return on both financial and human resource investment. We acknowledge the constraints that led to the deferral of the comprehensive review of the Global Strategy until 2026. However, we underscore the critical importance of this assessment. This review is essential, not only for suggesting necessary adjustments to the 'living document,' but, more importantly, to definitively measure progress against the targets outlined in the Global Strategy. We welcome the planned consultations and a thorough assessment at COP12 to address the progress of achieving the targets and strategic objectives outlined in the Global Strategy. We commend the Convention Secretariat for its continuous efforts to operationalize the WHO FCTC Investment Fund. It is, however, deeply concerning that this financial mechanism, approved at COP9, is still not operational. The need for sustained financing for the Convention Secretariat is urgent, especially considering that even once the initial investment is finally secured, the Fund will still require an additional 1–2 years to generate sufficient interest for the Convention

		Secretariat. We strongly urge Governments—through their whole-of-government approach—and all other potential financial partners, to commit the necessary capital to the Fund without further delay.
6.2 – Proposed Workplan and Budget for the financial period 2026–2027 Documents: FCTC/COP/11/13	The COP is invited to consider the report and adopt the Workplan and Budget for the financial period 2026–2027 contained in Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of document FCTC/COP/11/13	GATC supports strengthening the investment in Secretariat staff from 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. However, GATC is concerned that implementation of the WHO FCTC continues to come mainly from Extrabudgetary Funding. This is of great concern regarding long-term sustainability. We call on Parties to seek to commit Extrabudgetary Contributions early in the biennium to support the crucial WHO FCTC implementation work. The COP should also ensure that the Workplan and Budget provides travel support for low- and middle-income country Parties to attend FCTC-related meetings. 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 shifting and health budgets are shrinking. 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.
Maximizing Transparency Initiative (proposed by Ecuador)		GATC applauds the regional initiative presented by Ecuador. At the eighth session of the COP, and subsequently at the first Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, Parties 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.