

Statement of I.R. Iran on:

Progress report on the work of the High-level Ministerial Group on the Control of Tobacco and Emerging Tobacco and Nicotine Products in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Islamic Republic of Iran would like to thank the initiative of establishment of the high level ministerial group (HLM) on tobacco control and Emerging Tobacco and Nicotine Products by the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional office and the efforts made for the arrangements and holding its meetings.

Confirming the actions and achievements of the HLM during its two years activities, as one of the members of this high-ranking group, expressing concern about the prevalence of tobacco use in the region, especially among youth, and women and the efforts of the multinational tobacco industries in promoting the consumption of tobacco and emerging tobacco and nicotine products, declares its support by extending the HLM in the next two years and adding other countries that are members of the WHO FCTC and its Protocol to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products. On the other hand, due to the election of Islamic Republic of Iran as the regional coordinator of the protocol in the third meeting of the parties to the Protocol to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products in Panama, and considering the low membership of the countries in the region around the protocol, it is suggested that the condition of membership of the volunteer countries in the HLM group determined by the accession of that country to the Protocol to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products.

On the other hand, considering the importance of the decisions of HLM group in improving the status of the implementation of the WHO FCTC and its Protocol, it is recommended that the resolutions of this HLM group be approved in the RC meetings.

Hoping to strengthen regional cooperation in achieving the target of 30 reduction of tobacco consumption and promoting public health.

Madam/Mr. chairperson, thank you for this opportunity and many thanks for your attention.