

Box 1 Actions to scale up tobacco control in the Region

WHO FCTC Article 6

Countries

1. Advance the issue of tobacco tax increases, in line with WHO FCTC Article 6. With the Regional Director's letter, forward the proposals on tobacco taxation developed during the meeting to Ministers of Health as well as Ministers of Finance.
2. Start national analyses related to taxation status in order to identify gaps, priorities and ways forward.

WHO and CSF

3. Raise taxation issues with regional bodies such as the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Conference and the Gulf Cooperation Council through direct communications and letters from the Regional Director and head of the CSF.
4. Provide tailored technical support to Parties based on parties' official requests to WHO and CSF.

WHO FCTC general implementation

Countries

5. Scale up political commitments: participants attending the meeting should to continue to engage their political decision-makers at all levels through regular updates and technical briefings.
6. Encourage regulation of all tobacco products, including water pipes and e-cigarettes.
7. Strengthen implementation of smoke-free policies and implement appropriate awareness raising programmes to promote such measures.
8. Address tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship (TAPS) comprehensively to protect against the vested interests of the tobacco industry.
9. Finalize a proposal for the Seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP7) for discussion on TAPS in movies/drama/TV.
10. Re-examine the status of Article 11 implementation and safeguard pictorial health warnings from the tobacco industry interests.
11. Take all necessary steps to ratify/accede to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products as soon as possible to accelerate its entry into force.¹

WHO and CSF

12. Appoint an informal volunteer focal point from countries of the Region for each annual WHO FCTC meeting to follow up with countries as well as WHO and CSF on the status of the recommendations.
13. Develop copyright-free warnings for Parties.
14. Consider conducting regional research on illicit trade in the Region.
15. Provide the technical assistance needed to support the process of ratification/accession to the Protocol.

¹Since the meeting, Iraq and Saudi Arabia have become Party to the Protocol.