International Public Health Instruments for NCDs and National Public Health Institutes

The experience of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
Outline

- The challenge
- Advancing the instruments
- WHO FCTC
- How the Treaty works
- Global progress
- Role of national public health institutes
The Challenge

• Spread of the NCD epidemic
• Spread of the tobacco epidemic
• Globalization and cross-border factors
  – Trade liberalization
  – Foreign direct investments
  – Global marketing, advertising and promotion
  – The tactics of multinational industries
Advancing instruments to meet the challenge

- Global instruments to address the global challenge
- The increasing role of legislation to address health challenges
- Strengthening international cooperation in public health

- The experience of negotiating and implementing treaties in related areas
- The possibility provided by WHO Constitution
WHO FCTC - the timeline

- May 1996
  World Health Assembly (WHA) initiates the development of a framework convention

- May 1999
  Intergovernmental Negotiating Body and a technical working group established by WHA

- 2000-2003
  Formal drafting and negotiations

- 21 May 2003
  WHA adopts the Convention

- 27 February 2005
  The Convention enters into force

September 2011 174 Parties
The Convention: principal provisions

- General obligations
- Measures to reduce the demand for tobacco
- Measures to reduce the supply of tobacco
- International cooperation and resources
- Reporting and exchange of information
Why is it unique?

• First treaty negotiated under the umbrella of WHO
• One of the most rapidly and widely embraced treaties in the history of UN
• Legally binding instrument to address a global health challenge
• New model for effective responses to the negative effects of globalization on health
• New legal dimension in international health cooperation
## Parties by WHO Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>WHO Member States</th>
<th>WHO FCTC Parties</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>193</strong></td>
<td><strong>173</strong>*</td>
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</tbody>
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*European Union not counted*
Observers

- Non-party Member States: 20
- Intergovernmental organizations: 26
- Nongovernmental organizations: 26
How the Treaty works

- Treaty bodies and governance
- Treaty implementation tools
- International cooperation
- Mechanisms of assistance
Treaty bodies

- Conference of the Parties (COP)
- Bureau of the COP
- Convention Secretariat
Conference of the Parties

First session
6 - 17 February 2006
Geneva, Switzerland

Second session
30 June - 6 July 2007
Bangkok, Thailand
Conference of the Parties

**Third Session**
17 - 22 November 2008
Durban, South Africa

**Fourth Session**
15 - 20 November 2010
Punta del Este, Uruguay
Implementation tools

- **Protocols** to the Convention
- **Guidelines** for implementation of specific articles
- **Reporting system** of the Convention
International cooperation

- International cooperation as an integral part of the Convention
- Role of UN and other intergovernmental organizations and bodies
- Integration of treaty implementation into existing international frameworks (e.g. UNDAF, South-South Cooperation)
Mechanisms of assistance

- Needs assessments
- Promoting access to available resources
- Exchange of information and practices
  - FCTC implementation database based on Parties reports
  - Intercountry exchange at regional and sub-regional levels
  - Promoting transfer of expertise and technology
Global progress based on the reports of Parties: Overview

- **Overall**, based on the reports of Parties
  - **High implementation rates:**
    - Article 8 – *Smoke-free public places*
    - Article 10 – *Regulation of tobacco product disclosures*
    - Article 11 – *Strong health warnings on packaging*
    - Article 12 – *Education and public awareness*
    - Article 16 – *Banning sales to minors*
  - **Lower implementation rates:**
    - Article 5 – *General obligations*
    - Article 6 – *Raising taxation rates*
    - Article 13 – *Banning Tobacco advertising*
  - **Significant improvements** across the two reporting cycles:
    - Article 6 – *Raising taxation rates*
    - Article 8 – *Smoke-free public places*
    - Article 20 – *Research, surveillance, and exchange of information*
Progress in adoption/strengthening of national tobacco control legislation

144 Parties That submitted reports

95 Parties (66%) had legislation prior to ratification
- 78 Parties strengthened national legislation
- 17 Parties have not revised their legislation

49 Parties (34%) did not have legislation
- 42 Parties adopted legislation after ratification
- 7 Parties national legislation still missing
Principal challenges
(as reported by Parties)

- Lack of technical and financial resources
- Weak or no legislation
- Weakness of public awareness of harm of tobacco
- Power of tobacco industry (e.g. lawsuits)
- Weakness of intergovernmental and intersectoral cooperation
Considering the role of national public health institutes

At national level

– Placing FCTC implementation in national health programmes
– Technical support to intersectoral action
– Hosting a national reference centre for FCTC
– Surveillance and monitoring, support to reporting under FCTC
– Support to needs assessments and capacity building
Considering the role of national public health institutes

International level

– Support to exchange of best practices
– Hosting a regional knowledge hub
– Cooperation with the Convention Secretariat, WHO offices and UN interagency mechanism
– Using the IANPHI framework to promote the treaty implementation
Convention Secretariat

www.who.int/fctc