



FCTC

WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

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
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- 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

Region	WHO Member States	WHO FCTC Parties
African	46	41
Americas	35	29
Eastern Mediterranean	21	19
European	53	47
South-East Asia	11	10
Western Pacific	27	27
Total	193	173*

* 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

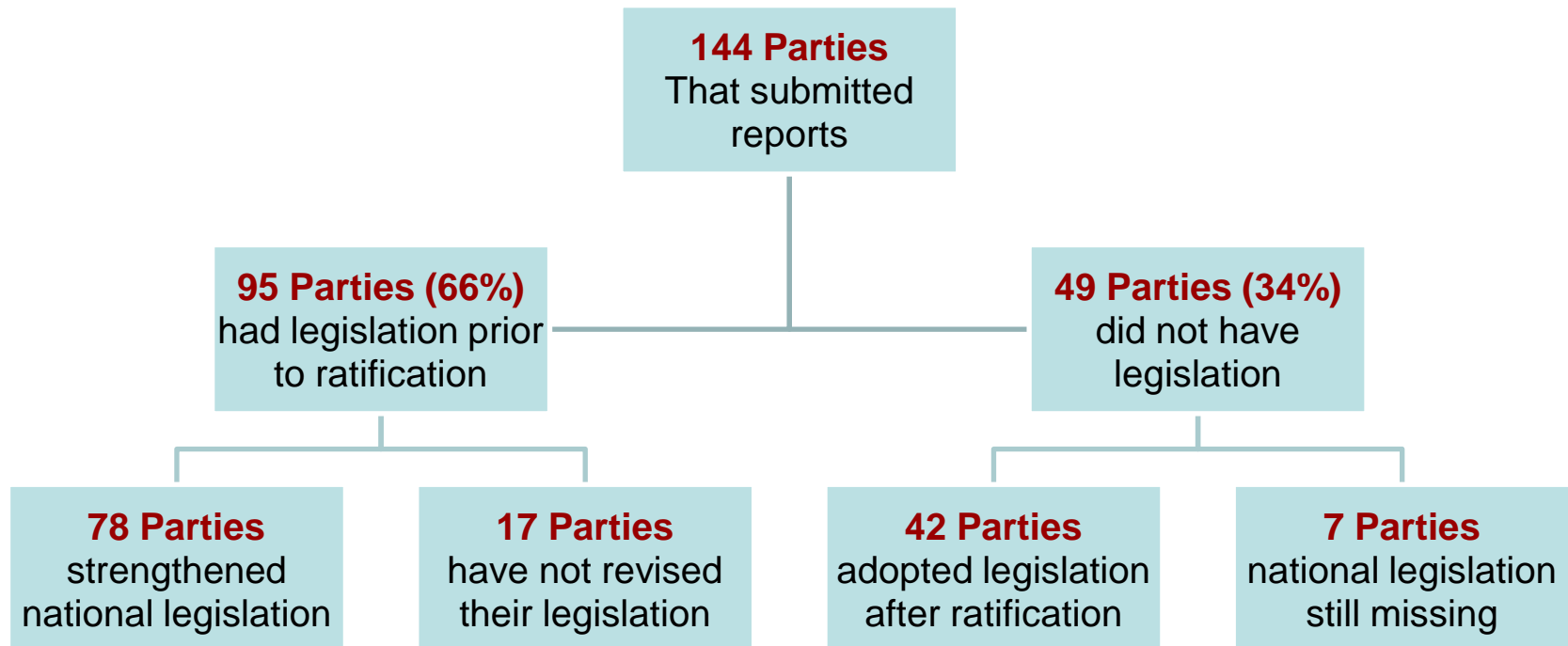
- Needs assessments
 - Promoting access to available resources
 - Exchange of information and practices
 - FCTC implementation database based on Parties reports
 - Intercountry exchange at regional and sub-regional levels
 - Promoting transfer of expertise and technology
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Global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



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

