The Seventh Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (COP7) was held on 7-12 November 2016 in India. The hosting of the COP7 provides considerable opportunities for the WHO South-East Asia Region to enhance its tobacco control agenda and policies to the advantage of Member States. The WHO South-East Asia Regional Office partnered with the Ministry of Health of the Government of Maldives and the Convention Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control to organize a regional workshop for COP7 on 21-22 September 2016 at Male, Maldives, to raise a powerful voice and achieve consensus in the Region for tobacco control among the Parties to the Convention.
Seventh Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

Report of the Joint Regional Workshop
Maldives, 21–22 September 2016
Seventh Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

Report of the Joint Regional Workshop
Maldives, 21–22 September 2016
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### Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>COP</td>
<td>Conference of the Parties</td>
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<tr>
<td>COP6</td>
<td>Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC</td>
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<td>COP7</td>
<td>Seventh Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOI</td>
<td>declaration of interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENDS</td>
<td>electronic nicotine delivery systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENNDS</td>
<td>electronic non-nicotine delivery systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>FCA</td>
<td>Framework Convention Alliance</td>
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<td>FCTC</td>
<td>Framework Convention on Tobacco Control</td>
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<td>FDA</td>
<td>Food and Drug Administration</td>
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<td>IGO</td>
<td>intergovernmental organization</td>
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<td>IGWG</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Working Group</td>
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<td>IRC</td>
<td>Implementation Review Committee</td>
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<td>ISDS</td>
<td>investor-state dispute settlements</td>
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<td>MOP1</td>
<td>First Session of the Meeting of the Parties of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products</td>
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<td>NCD</td>
<td>noncommunicable diseases</td>
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<td>NGO</td>
<td>nongovernmental organization</td>
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<td>SEAR</td>
<td>South-East Asia Region</td>
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<td>SEARO</td>
<td>South-East Asia Regional Office</td>
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<td>SEATCA</td>
<td>Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance</td>
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<td>SLT</td>
<td>smokeless tobacco</td>
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<td>TAPS</td>
<td>tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship</td>
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<td>TOR</td>
<td>terms of reference</td>
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<td>WHA</td>
<td>World Health Assembly</td>
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<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
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1 Background

The Seventh Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (COP7) was held on 7–12 November 2016 in India. The Region hosted a COP session at a time when tobacco control initiatives are facing various challenges at the national, regional and global level. The South-East Asia Region has a high burden of tobacco use. The hosting of Seventh Session of the COP provided enormous opportunity to the entire Region to enhance the tobacco control agenda and adopt policies to the advantage of Member States. Various agenda items of COP7 require a strong regional position and consensus among the Parties to the Convention in the SEA Region. In this context, the WHO South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) partnered with the Ministry of Health, Government of Maldives, and the Convention Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) to organize a two-day regional workshop for COP7 on 21–22 September 2016 in Maldives.

The aim of the workshop was to introduce the provisional agenda of COP7 to the Member States of the South-East Asia (SEA) Region and to provide a suitable avenue to the Member States to deliberate on tobacco control issues of regional importance and adopt common regional positions on important COP7 agenda items.

2 Inaugural Session

Dr Thaksaphon Thamarangsi, Director, Noncommunicable Diseases & Environmental Health, Department of Non Communicable Diseases & Environment, World Health Organization, Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO) gave the welcome address and expressed his deepest gratitude to H.E. Mr Abdulla Nazim Ibrahim, Minister of Health, Maldives, for taking time out of his busy schedule to attend the inaugural session. He extended a warm welcome to all participants, including Dr Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva, Head of the Convention Secretariat; Dr Vinayak Prasad from the WHO headquarters, Dr Arvind Mathur, WHO Representative to Maldives, Mr Hassan Mohamed, Vice-President of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (COP), officers from the Departments of Health and various other stakeholder departments from the Member States of the Region, eminent experts on tobacco control, representatives from civil society organizations and partner agencies, and colleagues from the WHO country offices of the Region and from WHO SEARO. He sincerely hoped that the deliberations during the workshop would show the Member States of the Region the way forward
and enable them to leverage the hosting of COP-7 in the Region to boost implementation of the WHO FCTC.

The message from Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia, was delivered on her behalf by Dr Arvind Mathur, WHO Representative to Maldives.

The Regional Director expressed appreciation for the fact that Member States had this opportunity to meet at the regional workshop, jointly organized by WHO SEARO and the Convention Secretariat, before the Seventh Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and discuss the various relevant issues that are important to the Region.

The WHO South-East Asia Region faces a unique situation, as well as many challenges, related to tobacco control. The Region is home to 246 million smokers. Various forms of smoking tobacco products such as cigarettes, hand-rolled cigarettes, kretteks and cheroots are prevalent in different Member States. They are also facing emerging challenges such as in the form of electronic nicotine delivery systems, or ENDS, also called electronic cigarettes. The smoking of water pipes, commonly known as “shisha”, is also becoming widespread among young people in Member States of the Region and this is very alarming.

Over 290 million smokeless tobacco users, amounting to nearly 90% of the global burden, live in this Region. The Regional Office has been continuously trying to
tackle the challenge of smokeless tobacco use. Following the recommendations of the Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (COP6), the Regional Office had organized an “Expert Group Consultation on Smokeless Tobacco and Public Health” in Mumbai, India, in July 2015, and called for action on the part of governments, academia, health professionals, researchers and other international agencies to collectively tackle the issue of growing burden of smokeless tobacco, Dr Singh said. The Regional Director also shared that the Convention Secretariat has supported the establishment of the global knowledge hub on smokeless tobacco in India earlier this year. This is a great leap forward in collective efforts to tackle the challenge of smokeless tobacco not only in the Region but also at the global level, she said.

The Regional Director recalled that Member States of the WHO South-East Asia Region unanimously adopted the Dili Declaration on accelerating the implementation of the WHO FCTC at the Sixty-eighth session of the Regional Committee for South-East Asia in Dili, Timor-Leste, in September 2015. The Declaration reiterates the strong commitment of Member States on tobacco control. Member States took steps to increase and simplify taxes on tobacco products. Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Thailand have tobacco taxes exceeding 70% of the retail price, as per recommendations of WHO. Bhutan has banned the manufacture, sale and trade of tobacco products. Robust restrictions on tobacco advertising and promotion are in place in most of the countries in the Region.

In keeping with the provisions of Article 11 of the WHO Framework Convention, health warnings on tobacco product packs are advancing across the SEA Region. To set a global example, Nepal introduced the highest percentage of pictorial health warnings on tobacco packages – 90% from the previous 75% – starting May 2015. Bangladesh has implemented 50% graphic health warnings (GHWs); India has increased the size of graphic health warnings to cover 40% of the principal display area on one side to 85% covering both sides of tobacco packages starting April 2016. Sri Lanka has increased the pack warning size from 60% to 80% on both sides of packets starting March 2015. Myanmar increased the pack warning size to 75% from September 2016. With reference to Article 8 of the WHO Framework Convention, smoke-free laws have been implemented in almost all countries in the Region and most of these are relatively comprehensive, the Regional Director informed.

She wished to remind all participants that though the WHO MPOWER measures
have helped Member States to move forward on demand reduction strategies, developing and implementing supply reduction measures continued to pose a big challenge to the Region. Four Member States in the Region are among the top 20 tobacco producing countries. India is the third and Indonesia the fifth largest producer of tobacco in the world. The Regional Office organized an “Expert Group consultation on alternative livelihoods for tobacco farmers and workers” in 2015 to provide expert advice on rolling out an agenda for alternative livelihoods for tobacco farmers and workers in the South-East Asia Region. It is, therefore, also important that Member States implement their recommendations so that tobacco production and trade in our Region gets reduced significantly.

At the same time, illicit tobacco trade poses a big challenge to the control of the tobacco epidemic in the Region. On one hand, there are some of the biggest tobacco producers here and on the other hand, there are some countries which do not produce tobacco but import manufactured tobacco products. Illegal cross-border trade has always been an issue. Illicit tobacco trade is more common in low- and middle-income countries, with the result that tobacco products are available at very low prices that increases their accessibility. Eliminating or reducing the illicit trade in tobacco products will reduce tobacco consumption by restricting the availability of cheap, unregulated alternatives and increasing overall tobacco prices. Sri Lanka acceded to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products earlier this year, becoming the first country in the Region to do so. In this context, the Regional Director encouraged other Member States to accelerate their efforts to ratify and accede to the Protocol in order to achieve comprehensive tobacco control. The increasing use of tobacco products among youth in the Member States is a cause for concern. Strict and urgent efforts are required to be taken to reduce the degree of access to tobacco products for minors, she added.

The Regional Director wishes to urge all Member States to come up with a regional standpoint which can raise a strong voice at the Seventh Session of the Conference of the Parties. The organization of the Seventh Session of the Conference of Parties in the Region gave Member States an opportunity to emphasize regional priorities at the global platform, she said.

Dr Singh also expressed her sincere thanks to Member States for their sustained efforts towards ending the tobacco epidemic in the Region. She expressed hope that the momentum will get accelerated towards achieving the global and regional
targets of reducing tobacco use by 30% by 2025 as envisaged in the WHO Global and Regional Action Plans for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013–2020. Dr Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva, Head of the Convention Secretariat, said the Regional Workshop was an opportune time for the Region to discuss in length the COP-7 agenda items were of regional importance. She reiterated the full support of the Convention Secretariat to all Member States of the Region.

H.E. Mr Abdulla Nazim Ibrahim, Minister of Health, Maldives, in his address shared various good practices in tobacco control adopted by Maldives. The Government of Maldives would continue to work on all vital tobacco control agendas, especially those related to addressing the rampant illicit trade in tobacco products, provisioning effective tobacco cessation services at the population level, implementing graphic health warnings on packages of tobacco products and promoting smoke-free jurisdictions, he assured the delegates.

The session ended with a vote of thanks delivered by Mr Hassan Mohamed, Vice-President of the Bureau of the COP.

3 Technical sessions

Dr Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva, Head of the Convention Secretariat, introduced the provisional agenda of COP7 to the participants. She informed that two agenda items – “addressing gender-specific risks when developing tobacco control strategies” and “tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship: depiction of
tobacco in entertainment media” – had been introduced for the first time in COP7. She urged all Member States to engage in open discussions during the workshop on various agenda items of regional importance. She shared with the participants likely topics for the side events during COP7. She also spoke of the concept of “Marketplace” that would be introduced for the first time during COP7. The aim of the “Marketplace” is to provide new forms of engagement and networking and reinforce international cooperation. The “Marketplace” will be a space where needs and possible solutions can be brought together; observers will be able to showcase the support they can offer Parties in implementing the Convention, linking demand and supply of capacity-building within the WHO FCTC.

This was followed by a brief presentation on “Regional Situation of implementation of the WHO FCTC and Expected Ocome of the Regional Consultation” by Dr Jagdish Kaur, Regional Adviser, Tobacco Free Initiative, WHO SEARO. In the Region is home to onefourth of the world's smokers, about 246 million in absolute term, and 80% of world's smokeless tobacco users, or about 290 million people. Approximately 1.3 million people die every year in the Region due to tobacco use, she informed. The regional situation is further confounded by diverse geographical patterns, climate, political systems, sociocultural systems, religious beliefs and languages, along with a plethora of tobacco products and different patterns of tobacco use. Despite these challenges, most of the Member States have made substantial progress in implementation of the MPOWER measures. However, Dr Kaur emphasized that it is important that this momentum be maintained by committing additional financial and human resources to the ongoing tobacco control initiatives. She suggested that there is an urgent need for Member States to look beyond MPOWER, especially in the context of addressing issues such as illicit trade of tobacco products, access to minors, alternative livelihoods for tobacco farmers and workers, etc. She advised the Member States to be proactive in order to effectively address the emerging threat of new tobacco products. The ensuing sessions were dedicated to technical discussions on various COP7 agenda items of regional importance.

During the four technical sessions over two days, 12 COP7 agenda items were discussed at length by the Member States. These agenda items were: status of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products; implementation of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC; further development of the partial guidelines for
implementation of Articles 9 and 10; reporting arrangements under the WHO FCTC; review of accreditation of intergovernmental organizations with the status of observer to the COP; maximizing transparency of Parties’ delegations, IGOs, NGOs and civil society groups during sessions of the COP and meetings of its subsidiary bodies; strengthening synergy between the COP and the World Health Assembly (WHA); impact assessment of the WHO FCTC; trade and investment issues, including agreements and legal challenges in relation to the implementation of WHO FCTC; control and prevention of water pipe tobacco products; electronic nicotine delivery systems and electronic non-nicotine delivery systems; and economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing (in relation to Articles 17 and 18 of the WHO FCTC). Delegates from the Convention Secretariat and WHO HQ, officers from the departments of health and various other stakeholder departments of the Member States of the Region, eminent experts on tobacco control and representatives from civil society organizations and partner agencies from the Region, TFI focal points from the WHO country offices of the Region and technical experts from the WHO SEARO actively participated in these discussions. The focus of discussion was to arrive at a common regional stand on these crucial agenda items of COP7.

Due to paucity of time, three agenda items: proposed work plan and budget for the financial period 2018–2019; addressing gender-specific risks when developing
tobacco control strategies and applications for the status of observer to the Conference of the Parties, could not be discussed during the workshop. However, this report shares the likely discussion points on these items during COP7 in November 2016.

The agenda-wise discussion points and recommendations are separately tabulated in the last section, “Recommendations”, of this report. These technical discussions were followed by a special session dedicated to presentations on three regional priority issues, namely, smokeless tobacco (SLT); issues relating to WHO FCTC Article 14: essence and approach to smoking cessation; and issues relating to WHO FCTC Article 16: tobacco product sales to minors in the Region.

Dr Than Sein from People's Health Foundation in Myanmar shared the good tobacco control practices followed by Myanmar for combating the ongoing SLT epidemic in the country. He emphasized that most of these practices, after suitable customization, are replicable in countries of the Region facing a similar SLT menace. Prof. Dr Prakit Vathesatogkit, an eminent global expert on tobacco control issues, in his presentation on issues relating to implementation of Article 14 of the WHO FCTC in the Region advocated for a systems approach to manage tobacco dependence. He urged the Member States to prioritize development of brief treatment interventions integrated into the health-care delivery network preferably within primary health-care, to establish a national quit line and to consolidate current practices into national guidelines on treatment and management of tobacco dependence.

In order to effectively limit access of tobacco products to minors across the Region, Ms Bungon Ritthiphakdee, Executive Director, Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA), called upon the Member States to follow a six-pronged strategy. The strategy encompasses strong legislative measures, whole-of-government approach, effective ban on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship (TAPS), whole-of-society approach, youth empowerment and de-normalization of tobacco use.

Dr Thaksaphon Thamarangsi, Director, NDE, WHO-SEARO, in his closing remarks shared a simple mantra of three B’s (be prepared, be together and be at the table) with the participants for effectively seizing the opportunity offered by the hosting of COP7 in the Region. He requested the participants to come prepared during
COP-7 and takes common stand on agenda of regional importance largely based on the recommendations of this workshop. He reminded Member States that implementation of Articles 17 and 18 of the WHO FCTC, trade- and investment-related tobacco control issues, and threats posed by emerging new tobacco products such as electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) are most crucial for the Region and need to be raised at appropriate international fora such as COP7.

**Statement by civil society**

[On behalf of Framework Convention Alliance (FCA), SEATCA, World Heart Federation and The International Union for TB and Lung diseases (The Union)].

One of the key tasks for governments at COP7 will be to address implementation of the FCTC.

At COP6, Parties adopted the WHO NCD Action Plan voluntary global target for a 30% relative reduction in prevalence of current tobacco use by 2025. The latest estimates projecting about what prevalence will look like in 2025 show that if the current level of tobacco control efforts remains exactly the same, most countries will not be on track to meet this target. According to the COP agenda, taking action on the voluntary global target is listed in the agenda items 4 and 6.2. Thus, COP7 should take the target seriously and think about what will be needed in order to make these types of discussions possible at future COP sessions. What is needed is an outline of how Parties can ramp up FCTC implementation to get back on track.

As such, mobilizing resources for FCTC implementation (agenda items 6.4, 6.5 and 7.5) is another priority. COP7 should take concrete steps to support Parties in mobilizing resources for national tobacco control. The report of the FCTC working group on sustainable measures (document FCTC/COP/7/18) and the report on Convention Secretariat's fundraising efforts and collaborative work (document FCTC/COP/7/26) contain helpful recommendations in this regard. COP7 should build on these recommendations and review existing implementation needs of Parties, determining key priorities. It should also request the Convention Secretariat, in coordination with relevant stakeholders, to communicate Parties' needs to donors. Finally, it will be important to agree on a mechanism to regularly review the needs of Parties and address them over time.

The SEA Region has played a leadership role over the years in establishing an implementation review mechanism. The region need to proactively encourage the
adoption of this mechanism as proposed by the Expert Group that worked on its terms of reference and call for its funding from the core budget of the treaty.

Last but not least is related to agenda on Art 5.3 and on tobacco and trade. We fully support the region to have strong regional position to ensure TC policy is protected and put health over trade.

We look forward to working with you in the coming months at COP7 in India.

4 **Recommendations**

The following are the recommendations of the Regional Workshop on selected agenda items of COP7:

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<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Discussion points</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
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<tr>
<td>a Agenda 5.1: Status of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products [Document FCTC/COP/7/5]</td>
<td>1 To guide the Secretariat on what could further be done to promote the implementation of the Protocol across the Region (in the Region, at present, only Sri Lanka is a Party to the Protocol). 2 To furnish views on: a Establishing a subsidiary body, in the manner of the Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG), to carry out substantive preparations for MOP1 b Holding MOP1 in conjunction with a short extraordinary session of the COP, six months after the entry into force of the Protocol.</td>
<td>» In view of the various challenges faced by the Parties in ratifying/ acceding to the Protocol, including lack of adequate sensitization of stakeholder departments such as finance, commerce, Customs, law, consumer affairs, police, FDA, etc., Parties requested the Secretariat to continue to facilitate the work of the members of the panel of experts. » Parties could not reach any consensus on how to reduce the anticipated significant time gap between the entry into force of the Protocol and the convening of MOP1; final stand on this would be decided at regional meetings during COP7.</td>
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<td>Agenda Item</td>
<td>Discussion points</td>
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<td>b Agenda 5.3: Implementation of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC [Document FCTC/COP/7/7]</td>
<td>1 To guide the Secretariat on what could further be done to promote the implementation of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC across the Region (tobacco industry interference is one of the biggest obstacles in implementing the provisions of the Convention in the Region) 2 To furnish opinions on promoting access of Parties to tools and resources for Article 5.3 implementation through “a knowledge hub (such a knowledge hub would also provide necessary support to the operation of the observatories described in paragraph 17 of the report)” or “additional electronic means of communication”.</td>
<td>» Taking into consideration the concerns over the growing interference of tobacco industry in tobacco control, including the tobacco industry’s engagement with intergovernmental organizations (IGO) and diplomatic missions, Parties requested the Convention Secretariat to collate and share best practices on implementation of Article 5.3 worldwide.  » Parties largely supported suggestions of promoting access of Parties to tools and resources for Article 5.3 implementation through “a knowledge hub” or “additional electronic means of communication”.  » It was also stressed that already established tobacco industry monitoring centres (observatories) and the proposed knowledge hub should work in synergy rather than as parallel independent mechanisms.</td>
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<td>c Agenda 5.4: Further development of the partial guidelines for implementation of Report by the Working Group [Document FCTC/COP/7/8]:</td>
<td>1 To consider adopting Annexes 1, 2 and 3 proposed for insertion into the existing partial guidelines</td>
<td>» Parties felt that as the report is highly technical, more deliberations may be required to reach consensus on some issues.  » Subject to further</td>
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<td>Agenda Item</td>
<td>Discussion points</td>
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| Articles 9 and 10: report by the working group and report by WHO | 1. To provide guidance on the questions set out in paragraphs 28 and 30 of the report.  
2. To furnish views on:  
   a. Proposed future work [with special emphasis on engagement in discussion on the regulation of addictiveness reduction (as detailed in Annex 4 of the report)], and  
   b. Paragraph 22 of the report [which delves into the research priorities for the Global Knowledge Hub on SLT in the Region]. | Consultations with the Ministries and technical partners, Parties were in favour of adopting Annexes 1, 2 and 3 proposed for insertion into the existing partial guidelines on Articles 9 and 10.  
» On the issue of engaging in discussion on the regulation of addictiveness reduction (as detailed in Annex 4 of the report), Parties were of the view that their current levels of capacity and scientific knowledge do not allow them to meaningfully engage in discussion on this regulation.  
» Parties requested the Convention Secretariat to continue to support them in capacity-building in respect of implementation of Articles 9 and 10. |
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| d Agenda 6.1: Reporting arrangements under the WHO FCTC: report by the expert | 1. To take note of the recommendations of the expert group in relation to Parties/Secretariat/International Agencies, and advise |  |
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<th><strong>Discussion points</strong></th>
<th><strong>Recommendations</strong></th>
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<td>group [Document FCTC/COP/7/15]</td>
<td>reach consensus on a few recommendations such as provision for re-opening past reports for amendment in subsequent reporting cycles and investigating how other relevant international data can be accessed by the Convention Secretariat, with a view to using that additional information in assessing global progress and reducing individual Parties' reporting burdens.</td>
<td>2 To comment on the “terms of reference” for the recommended WHO FCTC Implementation Review Committee and related issues.</td>
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<td>» Parties requested the Convention Secretariat to make some of the questions in the report more objective and meaningful, e.g., in respect of implementation of Article 5.3.</td>
<td>1 To comment on the proposed workplan and budget for the financial period 2018–2019 as presented in Annex 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>e Agenda 7.4: Proposed workplan and budget for the financial period 2018–2019</td>
<td>» Parties largely supported the proposed WHO FCTC Implementation Review Committee (IRC); however, it was decided that the discussion on the proposed ToR of the IRC should continue in regional meetings during COP7.</td>
<td>Report by the Convention Secretariat [Documents FCTC/COP/7/25]:</td>
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<td>1 To comment on the proposed workplan and budget for the financial period 2018–2019 as presented in Annex 1</td>
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<td>Not discussed</td>
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<td>Agenda Item</td>
<td>Discussion points</td>
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<td><strong>f</strong> Agenda 7.8: Review of accreditation of intergovernmental organizations with the status of observer to the COP [Document FCTC/COP/7/29]</td>
<td>Through this report, the COP would be invited to consider and adopt, as appropriate, the proposed workplan and budget for the financial period 2018–2019 and to consider delegating the Secretariat, in coordination with the Bureau, to communicate the scale of assessment of voluntary assessed contributions for 2018–2019 to Parties in early 2017, after the adoption of the United Nations scale of assessment by the General Assembly. Proposed workplan and budget for the financial period 2018–2019 [FCTC/COP/7/INF.DOC./2]: This is an explanatory note.</td>
<td>Particles supported the draft decision reviewed by the COP6 Bureau contained in Annex 1 of the Report and the proposed questionnaire for survey of intergovernmental organizations with observer status to COP contained in Annex 2 of the report.</td>
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<td><strong>g</strong> Agenda 7.9: Maximizing transparency of</td>
<td>1 To share views on the draft decision reviewed by the COP6 Bureau contained in Annex 1 of the Report and the proposed questionnaire for survey of intergovernmental organizations with observer status to COP contained in Annex 2 of the report.</td>
<td>Particles favoured adopting the generic sentences to be included in the letters of</td>
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<td>Agenda Item</td>
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<td>Parties' delegations, IGOs, NGOs and civil society groups during sessions of the COP and meetings of its subsidiary bodies [Document FCTC/COP/7/30]</td>
<td>Sentences to be included in the letters of invitation issued in relation to any governing body/subsidiary body meeting under the COP workplan on the exclusion of representatives of the tobacco industry/state-owned tobacco industries.</td>
<td>Invitation issued in relation to any governing body/subsidiary body meeting under the COP workplan on the exclusion of representatives of the tobacco industry/state-owned tobacco industries.</td>
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<td><strong>b</strong> The participation of representatives of the media as a separate category to attend the public and open sessions in future COPs, including the issuance of special badges and allowing the participation of the media in line with paragraphs 18–19 of the report,</td>
<td>On the issue of participation of representatives of the media as a separate category to attend the public and open sessions in future COPs, Parties were of the view that the DOI at Annex 1 of the report needs the following amendments:</td>
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<td><strong>c</strong> Whether or not all nominees at governing body/subsidiary body meetings under the COP work plan are required to sign a declaration of interest form,</td>
<td>» Declaration 1 on direct/indirect financial assistance from tobacco industry to be removed,</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>d</strong> Procedure for the screening of applications for public badges submitted in advance, with reference to paragraphs 20–23 of the report.</td>
<td>» An additional declaration to ensure that the media does not reveal the identity of individual Party needs to be inserted.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>» Parties favoured the proposal that all nominees at governing body/subsidiary body meeting under the COP work plan are required to sign a declaration of interest form.</td>
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<td>» Regarding screening of applications for public badges submitted in advance, Parties decided to continue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agenda Item</td>
<td>Discussion points</td>
<td>Recommendations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1 Agenda 7.11: Strengthening synergy</strong></td>
<td>To guide the Secretariat, taking into account the invitation from the World Health Assembly [Decision WHA69(13)].</td>
<td>All Parties were in support of strengthening synergy between the Conference of the Parties and the World Health Assembly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference of the Parties and the World Health Assembly</td>
<td>[[Document FCTC/COP/7/32]]</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1 Applications for the status of Observer to the Conference of the Parties</strong></td>
<td>To consider the applications submitted by the American Cancer Society, the Inter American Heart Foundation, and Vision Mondiale de la Santé (World Health Vision) for the status of observer to the COP, taking into account the recommendations of the Bureau of the COP.</td>
<td>Not discussed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Document FCTC/COP/7/3]</td>
<td>2 To consider the applications submitted by the East African Community, an intergovernmental organization, and 12 NGOs (as detailed in paragraph 34 of the report) for the status of observer to the COP, taking into account the recommendations of the Bureau of the COP.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agenda Item</td>
<td>Discussion points</td>
<td>Recommendations</td>
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</table>
| j  Agenda 5.8: Addressing gender-specific risks when developing tobacco control strategies [Document FCTC/COP/7/14] | 1. This is a detailed concept note to provide evidence on gender-specific risks and to assist Parties in implementing the gender-related provisions contained in the Convention.  
2. We may guide/advise the Secretariat on specific related issues. | Not discussed |
| k  Agenda 5.2: Impact assessment of the WHO FCTC: report by the expert group [Document FCTC/COP/7/6] | 1. To guide the Secretariat on next steps and on the continuation of dissemination of findings of the impact assessment exercise and the lessons learned, including an e-tool on impact assessment, support to additional Parties that wish to undertake an impact assessment, and retaining the functions of the expert group by a panel of experts that could be mobilized upon request by Parties. | » Parties largely supported the Secretariat on the continuation of dissemination of findings of the impact assessment exercise and the lessons learnt, including an e-tool on impact assessment, support to additional Parties that wish to undertake an impact assessment, and retaining the functions of the expert group by a panel of experts that could be mobilized upon request by Parties.  
» Parties felt that additional agenda items such as SLT and return on investment perspective (how much additional tax revenue generated, how much health expenditure saved) need to be addressed in future assessments. |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Discussion points</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
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</table>
| **Agenda 6.7:** Trade and investment issues, including agreements and legal challenges in relation to the implementation of WHO FCTC  
[Documents FCTC/COP/7/21] | 1 To share views on the different policy options presented in the report for treaty design, treaty network management, and addressing WHO FCTC implementation challenges. | » In anticipation of strong discussion on this topic during COP7, the Parties felt that it is imperative to support the most comprehensive option of completely carving out tobacco products, tobacco-related economic activity and regulatory action from the scope of all investor-State dispute settlements (ISDS).  
» Parties decided to propose a draft decision on this issue during COP7 (Action: Thailand). |
| **Agenda 5.5.1:** Control and prevention of waterpipe based tobacco products: report by WHO  
[Document FCTC/COP/7/10] | 1 To share views on suggested policy options and actions. | » Parties broadly favoured the proposed policy options and actions.  
» Parties felt that countries should look seriously at the option of eliminating/completely banning new tobacco products, including water pipe based tobacco products.  
» The option of ban on water pipes and new tobacco products could be presented as an additional regulatory option for consideration by the COP7. |
<table>
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<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Discussion points</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
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</table>
» Additionally, Parties felt that the countries ought to target prohibiting/completely banning electronic nicotine delivery systems and electronic non-nicotine delivery systems (ENDS/ENNDS), and the same could be presented for consideration by the COP7. |
| **Agenda 5.6: Economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing (in relation to Articles 17 and 18 of the WHO FCTC)**<br>[ Document FCTC/COP/7/12] | This is more of an information document  
2 We may guide/advise the Secretariat on specific, related issues | » Parties appreciated the actions taken up by the Convention Secretariat in relation to implementation of Articles 17 and 18 of the WHO FCTC. In view of the issue being a Regional Priority for the SEA Region, the Parties felt that it should be strongly deliberated during COP7.  
» Parties decided to propose a draft decision on this issue during COP7 (Action: India and Bangladesh). |
Joint Regional Workshop for the Seventh Session of Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC
21 – 22 September, 2016, Maldives

Agenda

Day 1: Wednesday 21 September 2016

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<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Mr Hassan Mohamed</th>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction of the Agenda of the day</td>
<td>Vice-President of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties</td>
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<td>Introduction of participants</td>
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<td>Opening ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome address by Dr Thamarangsi Thaksaphon, Director, Department of Noncommunicable Diseases &amp; Environment (NDE), WHO SEARO</td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO Regional Director's speech, delivered by Dr Arvind Mathur, WHO Representative to Maldives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opening Address by Dr Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva, Head of the Convention Secretariat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inaugural Address by H.E. Mr Abdulla Nazim Ibrahim, Minister of Health, Maldives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vote of thanks by Mr Hassan Mohamed, Vice-President of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nominations of officebearers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group photograph</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Seventh session of the Conference of the Parties:

**Introduction to the Provisional Agenda, Dr Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva**

A brief presentation on the 'Regional Situation of implementation of the WHO FCTC and Expected outcome of the Regional Consultation' by Dr Jagdish Kaur, Regional Adviser (TFI), WHO/SEARO.

**Chair**  
Dr Tun Myint  
(Myanmar)

**Co-Chair**  
Mr Tshering Gyeltshen  
(Bhutan)

### Review of the COP documents

The Convention Secretariat will introduce the reports, followed by discussion

**Category 1: Issues where significant substantive decisions will need to be taken**

**Agenda 5.1:** Status of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products  
Document FCTC/COP/7/5

**Agenda 5.3:** Implementation of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC  
Document FCTC/COP/7/7

**Agenda 5.4:** Further development of the partial guidelines for implementation of Articles 9 and 10: report by the working group and report by WHO  
Document FCTC/COP/7/8; FCTC/COP/7/9; FCTC/COP/7/INF.DOC/1

**Agenda 6.1:** Reporting arrangements under the WHO FCTC: report by the expert group  
Document FCTC/COP/7/15

**Agenda 7.4:** Proposed workplan and budget for the financial period 2018–2019  
Documents FCTC/COP/7/25; FCTC/COP/7/INF.DOC./2

**Agenda 7.8:** Review of accreditation of intergovernmental organizations with the status of observer to the COP  
Document FCTC/COP/7/29
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<tr>
<th>Agenda 7.9:</th>
<th>Maximizing transparency of Parties' delegations, IGOs, NGOs and civil society groups during sessions of the COP and meetings of its subsidiary bodies</th>
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<th>Agenda 7.11:</th>
<th>Strengthening synergy between the Conference of the Parties and the World Health Assembly</th>
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<td>Document FCTC/COP/7/32</td>
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<tr>
<th>Category 2:</th>
<th>Issues were a decision needs to be taken that is expected to be fairly routine/noncontroversial</th>
</tr>
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<th>Agenda 2:</th>
<th>Applications for the status of Observer to the Conference of the Parties</th>
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<th>Agenda 5.8.</th>
<th>Addressing gender-specific risks when developing tobacco control strategies</th>
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<th>Agenda 5.2</th>
<th>Impact assessment of the WHO FCTC: Report by the expert group</th>
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<td>Document FCTC/COP/7/6</td>
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<th>Agenda 6.7.</th>
<th>Trade and investment issues</th>
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<td>Documents FCTC/COP/7/21</td>
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<tr>
<th>Review of Day 1 Discussions facilitated by the Convention Secretariat</th>
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<tr>
<th>Rapporteur Day 1</th>
<th>Prof. Nuntavarn Vichit-Vadakan</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
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<th>Discussions by the Parties on selection of COP7 Bureau/Committee Members</th>
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<tr>
<th>Moderated by</th>
<th>Dr Herculano Seixas dos Santos (Regional Coordinator)</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Regional Coordinator)</td>
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</table>
### Agenda Item

**Category 3:** Issues where the COP is merely expected to take note of work done and take regular decisions (if time permits)

**Agenda 5.5.1:** Control and prevention of waterpipe tobacco products: report by WHO  
Document FCTC/COP/7/10

**Agenda 5.5.2:** Electronic nicotine delivery systems and electronic non-nicotine delivery systems: Report by WHO  
Document FCTC/COP/7/11

**Agenda 5.6:** Economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing (in relation to Articles 17 and 18 of the WHO FCTC)  
Document FCTC/COP/7/12

**Regional Priority: issues important for South East Asia Region will be discussed**

Short presentations followed by discussions

Smokeless tobacco in the region by Dr Than Sein, People’s Health Foundation from Myanmar

Issues relating to WHO FCTC Article 14: Essence and approach to smoking cessation by Prof Dr Prakit Vathesatogkit, Director, Bureau of Tobacco Control, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health Thailand

Issues relating to WHO FCTC Article 16: Tobacco product sales to minors in the region by Ms Bungon Ritthiphakdee Director, SEATCA

**Statement by civil society**

**Chair**  
Dr Jang Chun IL (DPR Korea)

**Co-Chair**  
Mr S.M. Ahsanul Aziz (Bangladesh)

**Chair**  
Dr Herculano Seixas dos Santos (Timor-Leste)

**Co-Chair**  
Mr K. Bhusal (Nepal)

**Civil Society representative**
| **Presentation on the Regional Stand** by Dr Jagdish Kaur, Regional Adviser (TFI), WHO SEARO. | **Chair**  
Dr Palitha Abeykoon (Sri Lanka)  
**Co-Chair**  
Prof. Prakit Vathesatogkit (Thailand) |
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recommendations by the Convention Secretariat</strong> by Dr Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva, Head of the Convention Secretariat</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Closing remarks**  
Mr Hassan Mohamed, Vice-President of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties  
Dr Thamarangsi Thaksaphon, Director, NDE |  |
| **Review of the progress and challenges on FCTC implementation in SEAR Member States**  
Short presentations by the Programme Managers  
Discussion | **Chair**  
Dr Thamarangsi Thaksaphon  
Director, NDE, WHO, SEARO  
**Co-Chair**  
Dr Jagdish Kaur, Regional Adviser, Tobacco Free Initiative, WHO SEARO |
Annex 2

Agenda of the Seventh Session of the Conference of the Parties to WHO FCTC (COP7)

1  Opening of the session
   1.1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
       Documents FCTC/COP/7/1 and FCTC/COP/7/1(annotated)
   1.2. Credentials of participants
       Document FCTC/COP/7/2

2  Applications for the status of observer to the Conference of the Parties
   Document FCTC/COP/7/3

3  Invited speakers

4  Global progress report in implementation of the WHO FCTC, followed
   by a general debate
   Documents FCTC/COP/7/4 and FCTC/COP/7/DIV/3

5  Treaty instruments and technical matters
   5.1. Status of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products
         Document FCTC/COP/7/5
   5.2. Impact assessment of the WHO FCTC: report by the expert group
         Document FCTC/COP/7/6
   5.3. Implementation of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC
         Document FCTC/COP/7/7
   5.4. Further development of the partial guidelines for implementation of Articles
        9 and 10 of the WHO FCTC: “Regulation of the contents of tobacco
        products” and “Regulation of tobacco product disclosures”: report by the
        working group and report by WHO
         Documents FCTC/COP/7/8; FCTC/COP/7/9; FCTC/COP/7/INF.DOC/1
   5.5. Control and prevention of globally emerging products

1Only on this agenda if the MOP1 does not take place after COP7 in 2016. Otherwise this will be discussed by MOP1.
5.5.1 Control and prevention of water pipe tobacco products: report by WHO
Document FCTC/COP/7/10

5.5.2 Electronic nicotine delivery systems and electronic non-nicotine delivery systems: report by WHO
Document FCTC/COP/7/11

5.6. Economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing (in relation to Articles 17 and 18 of the WHO FCTC)
Document FCTC/COP/7/12

5.7. Implementation of Article 19 of the WHO FCTC: “Liability”: report by the expert group
Document FCTC/COP/7/13

5.8. Addressing gender-specific risks when developing tobacco control strategies
Document FCTC/COP/7/14

6 Reporting, implementation assistance and international cooperation

6.1. Reporting arrangements under the WHO FCTC: report by the expert group
Document FCTC/COP/7/15

6.2. International cooperation for implementation of the WHO FCTC, including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the global NCD targets and human rights
Document FCTC/COP/7/16

6.3. South-South and Triangular cooperation
Document FCTC/COP/7/17

6.4. Sustainable measures to strengthen implementation of the WHO FCTC: report by the working group
Document FCTC/COP/7/18

6.5. Financial resources and mechanism of assistance
Document FCTC/COP/7/19

6.6. Issues related to implementation of the WHO FCTC and settlement
Document FCTC/COP/7/20

6.7. Trade and investment issues, including agreements, and legal challenges in relation to the implementation of the WHO FCTC
Document FCTC/COP/7/21
7 **Budgetary and institutional matters**

7.1. Performance report for the 2014–2015 workplan and budget  
   Document FCTC/COP/7/22

7.2. Interim performance report for the 2016–2017 workplan and budget  
   Document FCTC/COP/7/23

7.3. Payment of the voluntary assessed contributions and measures to reduce  
   Parties in arrears  
   Document FCTC/COP/7/24

7.4. Proposed workplan and budget for the financial period 2018–2019  
   Documents FCTC/COP/7/25; FCTC/COP/7/INF.DOC./2

7.5. Convention Secretariat’s fundraising efforts and collaborative work  
   Documents FCTC/COP/7/26

7.6. Process and methodology to conduct the performance evaluation for the  
   current and subsequent Head of the Convention Secretariat: report by the  
   Bureau of the Conference of the Parties  
   Document FCTC/COP/7/27

7.7. Review of accreditation of nongovernmental organizations with the status of  
   observers to the Conference of the Parties  
   Document FCTC/COP/7/28

7.8. Review of accreditation of intergovernmental organizations with the status of  
   observers to the Conference of the Parties  
   Document FCTC/COP/7/29

7.9. Maximizing transparency of Parties’ delegations, intergovernmental  
   organizations, nongovernmental organizations and civil society groups  
   during sessions of the COP and meetings of its subsidiary bodies  
   Document FCTC/COP/7/30

7.10. Possible amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the  
   Parties  
   Document FCTC/COP/7/31

7.11. Strengthening synergy between the Conference of the Parties and the  
   World Health Assembly  
   Document FCTC/COP/7/32
7.12. Relationship of the Convention Secretariat with other international entities: observer status and conclusion of cooperation agreements
   Document FCTC/COP/7/33

7.13. Hosting arrangements between the Convention Secretariat and WHO
   Document FCTC/COP/7/34

8. Date and place of the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties
   Document FCTC/COP/7/35

9. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Conference of the Parties
   Document FCTC/COP/7/36

10. Adoption of the provisional report of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties
    Document FCTC/COP/7/37

11. Closure of the session
Annex 3

List of participants

**MEMBER STATES**

**Bangladesh**

Mr S.M. Ahsanul Aziz  
Deputy Secretary (Public Health-3)  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Mr Md Fyzur Rahman  
First Secretary (VAT Policy)  
National Board of Revenue  
Segun Bagicha, Dhaka

Mr Muhammad Ruhul Quddus  
Coordinator  
National Tobacco Control Cell  
and Joint Secretary  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr Iftekhairul Karim  
Deputy Director  
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Bhutan**

Mr Tshering Gyeltshen  
Senior Communication Officer  
Health Promotion Division  
Ministry of Health  
Thimphu, Bhutan

Ms Tshering Om  
Legal Officer  
Bhutan Narcotics Control Authority  
Thimphu, Bhutan

**DPR Korea**

Dr Jang Chun IL  
Senior Official  
State Hygiene Control Board  
Ministry of Public Health  
Pyongyang, DPR Korea

Dr Jang Hye Sun  
Scientific Coordinator  
Population Centre  
Pyongyang, DPR Korea

Dr Kim Son Gyong  
Researcher, National Institute of Public Health Administration  
Ministry of Public Health  
Pyongyang, DPR Korea

Dr Ri Jin  
Section Chief  
State Hygiene Control Board  
Ministry of Public Health  
DPR Korea

Mr Ri Jang Gon  
WHO Coordinator  
Department of International Organizations  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
DPR Korea
### India

Mr Amal Pusp  
Director (IH)  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
India

Dr L. Swasticharan  
Chief Medical Officer  
Directorate-General of Health Services  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
India

Mr Chandra Shekhar  
Under Secretary (Tobacco Control)  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
India

Mrs Kajal Singh  
Commissioner (RI&I)  
Anti-Smuggling Unit  
Central Board of Excise and Customs  
New Delhi, India  
Ministry of Finance  
Government of India

### Indonesia

Dr Theresia Sandra Dewi Ratih  
Head, Sub-Directorate of Chronic and Degenerative Diseases Control  
NCD Directorate, Ministry of Health  
Jakarta, Indonesia

Dr Nasruddin Djoko Surjono  
Deputy Director for Customs and Excise Policy  
Fiscal Policy Agency  
Ministry of Finance  
Jakarta, Indonesia

### Maldives

Mr Hassan Mohamed  
Deputy Director  
Health Protection Agency  
Malé, Republic of Maldives

Mr Ahmed Shakir  
Senior Policy Executive  
Member of Tobacco Control Board  
Ministry of Economic Development  
Male, Maldives

### Myanmar

Dr Tun Myint  
Regional Public Health Director  
Regional Public Health Department  
Ayeyarwaddy  
Myanmar

Dr Mya Lay New  
Deputy Director (Basic Health)  
Department of Public Health  
Naypyitaw  
Myanmar

Dr Soe Win  
Deputy Director  
Department of Trade  
Ministry of Commerce  
Naypyitaw, Myanmar

### Nepal

Mr Khimanand Bhusal  
Under-Secretary (Law)  
Focal person for Tobacco Control  
Ministry of Health  
Nepal

Mr Suresh Kumar Sharma  
Accounts Officer
Ministry of Health
Nepal

Dr Tara Singh Bam
Regional Adviser, Tobacco Control
The Union Asia Pacific Office
International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease
(The Union)

Sri Lanka

Dr (Mrs) T.L.C. Somatunge
Deputy Director General (MS)
Ministry of Health
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Dr Palitha Abeykoon
Chairman
National Authority on Tobacco Control
Sri Lanka

Thailand

Dr Pantip Chotbenjamaporn
Director, Bureau of Tobacco Control
Department of Disease Control
Ministry of Public Health
Thailand

Mr Doolyaphol Chudabala
Tax Officer, Professional Level
Bureau of Tax Planning
Department of Excise
Ministry of Finance, Thailand

Mr Pinit Srimala
Policy and Plan Analyst
Practitioner Level
Bureau of Tobacco Control
Department of Disease Control
Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

Mr Chirawat Yoosabai
Legal Officer
Bureau of Tobacco Control
Department of Disease Control
Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

Associate Prof. Nuntavarn Vichit-Vadakan
Dean
The School of Global Studies
Thammasat University
Thailand

Timor-Leste

Dr Mr Leonardo Guterres de Carvalho
National Director for External Commerce
Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environmental, Timor-Leste

Mr Anacleto A. Guterres
District Health Officer for Noncommunicable Disease and Mental Health
Dili Health Municipality
Ministry of Health, Timor-Leste

Expert

Prof. Prakit Vathesatogkit
Executive Secretary
Action on Smoking and Health Foundation
Thailand

NGOs and other Partner Agencies

Dr U. Than Sein
Director
People's Health Foundation
Myanmar

Mr Amit Yadav
Board Member (SEARO)
Framework Convention Alliance
New Delhi, India
Dr Rana J. Singh  
Senior Technical Advisor  
The Union South-East Asia  
International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease  
(The Union)  
Ms Bungon Ritthiphakdee  
Director  
South-East Asia Tobacco Control Alliance  
Thailand  
Dr Nalin Singh Negi  
Senior Research Manager  
Research and Evaluation  
Vital Strategies  

**Observers**  
Ms Maahu Jabeen  
Assistant Director  
Health Protection Agency  
Male, Maldives  
Mr Abdul Hameed  
Senior Public Health Programme Officer  
Health Protection Agency  
Male, Maldives  
Official from Cancer Society of Maldives  

**WHO FCTC Convention Secretariat**  
Dr Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva  
Head of Convention Secretariat  
WHO FCTC Convention Secretariat  
Dr Willen Carmen  
External Relations Officer  
WHO FCTC Convention Secretariat  

**WHO Secretariat**  

**WHO-HQ**  
Dr Vinayak Prasad  
Project Manager  
Prevention of NCD  
WHO headquarters, Geneva  

**WCO Bangladesh**  
Dr Mahfuzul Huq  
National Professional Officer  
WHO Country Office  
Dhaka, Bangladesh  

**WCO Bhutan**  
Mr Tshering Dhendup  
National Professional Officer  
WHO Country Office  
Thimpu, Bhutan  

**WCO India**  
Ms Vineet Gill Munish  
National Professional Officer, TFI  
WHO Country Office  
New Delhi  

**WCO Indonesia**  
Dr Farrukh Qureshi  
Technical Officer, NCD  
WHO Country Office  
Jakarta, Indonesia  
Ms Dina Kania  
National Professional Officer  
WHO Country Office  
Jakarta, Indonesia
WCO Maldives
Dr Arvind Mathur
WHO Representative for Maldives
WHO Country Office, Maldives
Ms Hudha Fathimath
National Professional Officer
WHO Country Office, Maldives

WCO Myanmar
Dr Myo Paing
National Professional Officer
WHO Country Office, Myanmar

WCO Nepal
Dr Lonim Dixit
National Professional Officer, NCD
WHO Country Office
Kathmandu, Nepal

WCO Timor-Leste
Mr Leoneto Soares Pinto
Noncommunicable Disease and Mental Health Programme Associate
World Health Organization, Timor-Leste

WHO-SEARO
Dr Thaksaphon Thamarangsi
Director
Department Noncommunicable Diseases and Environmental Health
WHO/SEARO, New Delhi, India
Dr Jagdish Kaur
Regional Adviser
Tobacco Free Initiative
WHO/SEARO, New Delhi, India
Dr Pyi Pyi Phyo
Junior Public Health Professional (JPP)
Annex 4

“Be the Change” Initiative

“Be the Change” initiative calls to promote physical activity as part of addressing the growing global burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCD).

Below is an overview of the activities that were done as part of the “Be the Change” initiative during the “Regional Workshop for the Seventh Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC”:

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<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Activity Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td><strong>Walk the talk on the island;</strong> 6.30 to 7.00 am, 21st September 2016; a collective walk was undertaken around the island wherein participants walked around together while interacting with each other</td>
<td>About 40% participants attended these sessions. They felt that such initiatives promote physical activity amongst participants and encourage the participants to stay active even during duty travel. Majority were of the view that initiatives such as “morning walk” and “morning yoga” for the participants be included in all the future WHO workshops in the SEAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td><strong>Yoga on the Beach;</strong> 6.30 to 7.15 am, 22nd September 2016; a Yoga session was organized for the participants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td><strong>Activities in mid-breaks;</strong> these activities were done during breaks between sessions on both days of the workshop; activities were mostly limited to stretching exercises</td>
<td>Participants felt charged and seemed to have better concentration after the stretches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Seventh Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (COP7) was held on 7-12 November 2016 in India. The hosting of the COP7 provides considerable opportunities for the WHO South-East Asia Region to enhance its tobacco control agenda and policies to the advantage of Member States. The WHO South-East Asia Regional Office partnered with the Ministry of Health of the Government of Maldives and the Convention Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control to organize a regional workshop for COP7 on 21-22 September 2016 at Male, Maldives, to raise a powerful voice and achieve consensus in the Region for tobacco control among the Parties to the Convention.

Seventh Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

Report of the Joint Regional Workshop
Maldives, 21-22 September 2016