



Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products
Resumed Third session, Panama City, Panama, 12–15 February 2024

JOURNAL

N° 3 – Wednesday 14 February 2024

This Journal does not constitute an official record of the Meeting of the Parties.

Time	Event	Room
10:00	Fourth meeting of Committee A	America Hall 1/2, first floor
10:00	Fourth meeting of Committee B	Canal Hall 1, ground floor
Immediately after the closure of the Committees	Fourth Plenary meeting	America Hall 1/2, first floor

Informal regional meetings and the EU coordination meetings

08:00–09:00	European Union coordination meeting (<i>closed</i>)	ISTMO 1, first floor
08:30–09:30	Regional group for Africa	Caribe 6, ground floor
08:30–09:30	Regional group for South-East Asia	Caribe 2, ground floor
08:30–09:30	Regional group for the Western Pacific	Caribe 3, ground floor
09:00–10:00	Regional group for the Americas	Caribe 5, ground floor
09:00–10:00	Regional group for the Eastern Mediterranean	Pacifico 3, ground floor
14:00–15:00	European Union coordination meeting (<i>closed</i>)	ISTMO 1, first floor
18:00–19:00	European Union coordination meeting (<i>closed</i>)	Caribe 5, ground floor

Other meetings

08:30–08:50 and 30 minutes after the closure of the Plenary	Daily press briefings	Pacífico 5, ground floor
	Side events:	
13:30–14:45	Tobacco industry interference and the Protocol	Caribe 5, ground floor
13:30–14:45	The role of international organization in the implementation of the Protocol	Caribe 6, ground floor

Meeting of the Bureau

Immediately after the closure of the Plenary	Meeting of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties (<i>closed</i>)	ISTMO 1, first floor
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Programme of work

Fourth meeting of Committee A	10:00 – Plenary Hall, America Hall 1/2, first floor
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- Item 6 (cont) Reporting, implementation assistance and international cooperation**
- Item 6.1 (cont) Reporting and information sharing under the Protocol (including improving the reporting system of the Protocol)
Document FCTC/MOP/3/7
- Item 5 (cont) Protocol instruments and technical matters**
- Item 5.2 (cont) Road map, timelines and steps to conduct evidence-based research (Articles 6.5 and 13.2)
Document FCTC/MOP/3/6

Fourth meeting of Committee B	10:00 – Canal Hall 1, ground floor
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- Item 7 (cont) Budgetary and institutional matters**
- Item 7.6 (cont) Possible amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Meeting of the Parties
Document FCTC/MOP/3/13
- Item 7.2 (cont) Proposed Workplan and Budget for the financial period 2024–2025
Documents FCTC/MOP/3/9 and FCTC/MOP/3/INF.DOC./1

Fourth Plenary meeting	15:00 – Plenary Hall, America Hall 1/2, first floor
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- Reports of the main committees**
- **First report of Committee A (Draft)**
Document (Draft) FCTC/MOP/3/A/R/1, containing one decision entitled:
– Item 5.1: Global information-sharing focal point
- **First report of Committee B (Draft)**
Document (Draft) FCTC/MOP/3/B/R/1, containing two reports entitled:
– Item 7.1: Performance and progress reports
- **Second report of Committee A (Draft)**
Document FCTC/MOP/3/A/R/2, reporting two suspended agenda items:
– Item 5.2: Road map to conduct evidence-based research in accordance with articles 6.5 and 13.2 of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products
– Item 6.1: Improving the reporting system of the Protocol

- **Second report of Committee B (Draft)**
Document (Draft) FCTC/MOP/3/B/R/2, containing 4 decisions entitled:
 - Item 7.3: Assessed Contributions
 - Item 7.4: Investment Fund for implementation of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products
 - Item 7.5: Review of accreditation of nongovernmental organizations with the status of observer to the Meeting of the Parties
 - Item 7.7: Appointment of the Head of the Convention Secretariat and renewal of the term of office
- Item 8** **Date and place of the Fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties**
Document FCTC/MOP/3/15
- Item 9** **Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Meeting of the Parties**
Document FCTC/MOP/3/16
- Item 10** **Provisional report of the Third session of the Meeting of the Parties**
- Item 11** **Closure of the session**

Report of meetings on Tuesday, 13 February 2024

Third Plenary meeting

In the chair: Ms Hekali Zhimomi (India)
President of the Meeting of the Parties

Item 1 (cont) **Opening of the session**

Item 1.2 (cont) **Credentials of participants**

The President called the meeting to order. It was recalled that, as indicated in decision FCTC/MOP3(1), the credentials accepted by the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) for the *de minimis* session remained valid for the resumed session. One Party, not listed in decision FCTC/MOP3(2), submitted credentials in accordance with Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure and those credentials were found to be in conformity. The draft decision was approved, as proposed and the agenda item was closed.

– **The Panama Declaration**

The Parties were invited to consider the Panama Declaration contained in document FCTC/MOP3/P/CONF./1 Rev.1. The President proposed that a decision on the declaration be considered at the closure of the session, and that the Parties discuss the text of the draft decision in Committee A once the Committee has completed its assigned work. This proposal was accepted by the MOP.

At the invitation of the President, Panama introduced the draft Declaration.

The meeting was adjourned.

Second meeting of Committee A

In the chair: Dr Alan Gerard Ludowyke (Sri Lanka)

Item 5 (cont) Protocol instruments and technical matters

Item 5.2 Road map, timelines and steps to conduct evidence-based research (Articles 6.2 and 13.2)

The Chair opened the agenda item and gave the floor to Mr Theodore Leggett, Research Officer at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to refer to the collaboration between the Convention Secretariat and the UNODC.

The Committee was invited to consider the report contained in document FCTC/MOP/3/6 and approve the draft decision contained in Annex 2 of the report. Comments were invited from the floor. The Convention Secretariat responded to the issues raised. One Party introduced a series of amendments.

The Chair requested that the draft decision text be shown, allowing the Committee to review the proposed amendments. The Convention Secretariat presented the Chair's text, which included the suggested amendments to the draft decision and invited comments from the floor.

The Committee was not able to reach consensus on the proposed amendments in the meeting. Some delegations requested more time for their regional consultations and requested the document containing the proposed amendments be made available in other languages.

The agenda item was suspended and the meeting adjourned.

Second meeting of Committee B

In the chair: Mr Hugo Mayer (Austria)

Item 7 (cont) Budgetary and institutional matters

Item 7.2 Proposed Workplan and Budget for the financial period 2024–2025

The agenda item was opened and the Chair invited the Committee to consider the report and approve the Workplan and Budget for the financial period 2024–2025 contained in Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of document FCTC/MOP/3/9 and FCTC/MOP/3/INF.DOC./1. The Committee was also invited to approve the draft decision published by the Convention Secretariat as a white paper. At the invitation of the Chair, the Convention Secretariat provided introductory remarks. The Chair invited comments from the floor. Discussion of the agenda item was suspended.

Item 7.3 Payment of Assessed Contributions and measures to reduce Parties in arrears

The agenda item was opened and the Chair invited the Committee to note the report contained in document FCTC/MOP/3/10 Rev.1. The Committee was also invited to approve the draft decision annexed to the document. At the invitation of the Chair, the Convention Secretariat provided some introductory remarks and informed the Committee that the following Parties were no longer in arrears: Benin, Brazil, Gambia, Hungary, Saudi Arabia and Togo. Comments were invited from the floor and the Convention Secretariat responded to the issues raised.

The Chair gave the floor to the Convention Secretariat who read out the various proposed amendments to the amended draft decision. The report was noted and the draft decision was approved, as amended. The agenda item was closed.

Item 7.4 Investment Fund for implementation of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products

The agenda item was opened and the Chair invited the Committee to note the report contained in Annex 1 of document FCTC/MOP/3/11. The Committee was also invited to approve the draft decision contained in Annex 2 of the document. At the invitation of the Chair, the Convention Secretariat provided some introductory remarks, and comments were invited from the floor. The Convention Secretariat responded to the issues raised. The report was noted and the decision was approved, as proposed. The agenda item was closed.

Item 7.5 Review of accreditation of nongovernmental organizations with the status of observer to the Meeting of the Parties

The agenda item was opened and the Chair invited the Committee to note the report contained in document FCTC/MOP/3/12 and approve the draft decision in the Annex of the report. The Chair invited comments from the floor. At the invitation of the Chair, the Convention Secretariat responded to the issues raised.

The meeting was adjourned.

Third meeting of Committee A

In the chair: Dr Alan Gerard Ludowyke (Sri Lanka)

Item 6 **Reporting, implementation assistance and international cooperation**

Item 6.1 Reporting and information sharing under the Protocol (including improving the reporting system of the Protocol)

The Committee was invited to consider the revised reporting instrument for the Protocol as contained in Annex 2, and the draft decision contained in Annex 3 of document FCTC/MOP/3/7. The Chair gave the floor to the Head of the Convention Secretariat to provide some introductory remarks. The floor was opened for discussion. The Convention Secretariat responded to the issues raised.

The Chair invited a Party to read out the proposed amendments to the draft decision contained in Annex 3 of document FCTC/MOP/3/7. In the absence of a consensus, it was suggested that the item remain open for consideration pending the outcome of informal discussions.

– (cont) The Panama Declaration

Comments were invited from the floor on the draft text of the Panama Declaration. Parties put forward and discussed amendments to the text. Most amendments were agreed upon except one. The Head of the Convention Secretariat provided an explanation concerning having in-house technical expertise versus coordinating technical assistance provided through different actors. In the absence of a consensus on one proposal, the Chair announced that the agenda item would be discussed at the next Plenary meeting.

The meeting was adjourned

Third meeting of Committee B

In the chair: Mr Hugo Mayer (Austria)

Item 7 (cont) **Budgetary and institutional matters**

Item 7.5 (cont) Review of accreditation of nongovernmental organizations with the status of observer to the Meeting of the Parties

The Chair resumed the session and reopened the agenda item contained in document FCTC/MOP/3/12. The Chair projected the draft decision with amendments proposed by a Party seeking the Committee's approval. At the invitation of the Chair, the Convention Secretariat replied to the issues raised. The Committee noted the report and the decision was adopted, as amended. The agenda item was closed.

Item 7.7 Appointment of the Head of the Convention Secretariat: report by the Bureau

The Chair opened the agenda item and invited the Committee to note the report contained in document FCTC/MOP/3/14. The Committee was also invited to approve the draft decision published by the Convention Secretariat as a white paper with an updated text of the draft decision contained in the annex of document FCTC/MOP/3/14, as proposed by the Bureau. At the invitation of the Chair, a member of the Bureau introduced the item. Comments were invited from the floor. One Party requested that their proposal to adjust the provisional criteria contained in the annex of the proposed draft decision be reported in the official record for consideration of the next Bureaus of the MOP and of the Conference of the Parties. The Convention Secretariat replied to the issues raised, confirming that the criteria listed in the annex of the proposed draft decision were provisional. The report was noted and the decision was approved. The agenda item was closed.

Item 7.6 Possible amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Meeting of the Parties

The agenda item was opened and the Chair invited the Committee to note the report contained in document FCTC/MOP/3/13. The Committee was also invited to approve the draft decision published on the restricted access website as a white paper with an updated text of the draft decision contained in the annex of document FCTC/MOP/3/13. The Convention Secretariat provided introductory remarks. At the invitation of the Chair, a Party read out proposed amendments to the draft decision and the floor was opened for comments. The Convention Secretariat replied to the issues raised. Consideration of the agenda item was suspended and the meeting was adjourned.

WHO FCTC MOP3 App

The WHO Events App for the WHO FCTC MOP3 for smart phones and computers is now available. The App provides secure access to the official documents, basic documents and all the practical information that participants need for taking part in MOP3. For more information, check the [App Quick Start Guide](#), or contact fctcappsupport@who.int if you require any assistance regarding the app.

Social Media Accounts

Delegates are encouraged to use the official hashtag: [#IllicitTobaccoProtocol](#), #MOP3FCTC and #MOP3 on X (Twitter), Facebook or other social media channels to raise awareness about MOP3, the Protocol and the importance of its implementation.

Procedural issues

To raise a point of order, request a right of reply or make a procedural motion pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Meeting of the Parties, a delegation member should send a message by SMS text or by WhatsApp to +41 79 507 4827 for Plenary sessions, to +41 79 150 38 29 for Committee A meetings and to +41 79 201 2132 for Committee B meetings. These numbers are staffed during meeting times and may only be used for points of order, requests for rights of reply or other procedural motions and not for any other matter. Any messages will be promptly relayed to the presiding officer.

Contact information

Plenary: cop10-mop3@who.int

Committee A: fctcComA@who.int

Committee B: fctcComB@who.int

Badges

Participants will be able to collect their badges before the opening of the session at the Registration Desk located on the ground floor of the Panama Convention Center. The Registration Desk will be open as follows:

- Wednesday, 14 February from 08:00 until 18:00.
- Thursday, 15 February from 08:00 until the closure of the session.

A complimentary shuttle service will be available between the official hotels and the Panama Convention Center.

Announcements

Arrangements for conduct of discussion in Plenary, Committee A and B meetings

For the conduct of plenary meetings, interventions by delegates will be monitored by a “traffic light”. Individual statements are limited to three minutes (330 words) and statements on behalf of a WHO region to four minutes (440 words).

Delegations wishing to speak in the general debate are invited to notify the Convention Secretariat as soon as possible by email with the subject line “Request for general debate statement” to cop10-mop3@who.int. Delegations are encouraged to opt for group or regional statements, in lieu of individual statements.

Interventions

Please provide the text of any interventions to the messengers who will come to your seat once you have spoken, or e-mail the text of your intervention, where appropriate, to fctcrecords@who.int.

Interpretation and statements

Interpretation will be provided in the six official languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). Delegates are requested to send a copy of their statement to interpret@who.int at least 30 minutes in advance. This does not prevent delegates from making changes upon delivery, but it will facilitate clarity and accuracy in all languages. When submitting a statement by email please specify, both in the subject line of the email and at the top of the attached statement, the name of the country/group, the meeting (for example, Plenary, Committee A or Committee B) and the number of the relevant agenda item. Delegates are requested to deliver statements at a normal speaking pace. Rapid delivery risks impeding clarity and accuracy in interpretation. Statements provided in advance are treated as confidential and checked against delivery for the purpose of the official record.

Distribution of documents

Official documents for the resumed session of MOP3 are available on the WHO FCTC website. The documents for the session can be downloaded at: [MOP3 main documents](#).

A secure and restricted online documentation portal will be set up for delegates to access in-session documentation with a username and password communicated to Parties by the Convention Secretariat. Delegates should make their own arrangement to print their documents if needed.

Room booking

There is limited space for bilateral or private meetings; however, upon request, rooms can be designated by the Convention Secretariat for specific appointments. Regrettably, interpretation cannot be provided for such meetings. Requests will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Requests for a meeting room should be sent to the Convention Secretariat as soon as possible – but no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting – to cmpmail@who.int, stating the date and time of the meeting, duration of the meeting, number of participants, and name of the organizer (Party or observer).

List of participants

A provisional list of participants is available and posted on the WHO FCTC website at the opening of the session. This list was issued on the basis of valid credentials received by the Convention Secretariat up to 12:00 (noon) on Sunday, 11 February 2024. In the event of any official change in the details and composition of a delegation, the Convention Secretariat requests that it be amended directly in the registration system.

On-site facilities

Information desk: It will be located on the ground floor of the Panama Convention Center and will provide information on a range of topics to participants. The Information Desk can also refer participants to other services, including travel, postal services, medical care and communications. Lost property can be turned in or reclaimed at the Information Desk.

Wireless internet: The Panama Convention Center has free wireless internet service (Wi-Fi).

Potable water: The Panama Convention Center has water fountains in all areas of the facility. To facilitate the supply of water to all participants, water dispensers will be placed in the various rooms. Participants will be able to fill the bottle provided in the conference bag given to them at the time of registration. For information, the tap water in all cities of the country is also safe for consumption.

Tranquillity Room: A Tranquillity Room for meditation/prayer is available at the Panama Convention Center for participants who wish to pray, meditate or find a quiet space to relax.

Catering facilities: Lunch will be provided by the host country from Monday, 12 February to Thursday, 15 February. A coffee shop will be available at the Panama Convention Center.

Emergency and useful numbers in Panama

- Panama Convention Center: Tel + 507 308 8888
- Police: 104
- Ambulance service: 103
- Fire: 103
- Medical facilities: an emergency medical service will be available at the Panama Convention Center during the Conference from 7:00 to 18:00 on days without evening sessions, and until 23:00 should evening sessions be held. Delegates requiring urgent medical attention outside of the Panama Convention Center are advised to call 911 or CRUEM (Centro Regulador de Urgencias y Emergencias Médicas) at: +507 512 9219 or +507 6330 5577.