



**MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL  
TO ELIMINATE ILLICIT TRADE IN TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

**FCTC/MOP/3/15  
19 May 2023**

**Third session  
Panama City, Panama, 27–30 November 2023  
Provisional agenda item 8**

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## **Date and place of the Fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties**

### **Report by the Convention Secretariat**

#### **Purpose of the document**

The present report proposes a date and place for the Fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP4) to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products. It also makes reference to the basic requirements for Parties to host future sessions of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP).

#### **Action by the Meeting of the Parties**

The MOP is invited note the present report and consider adopting the annexed draft decision to decide the date and place of MOP4.

Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): All SDGs; in particular SDG 3 and Target 3.a, as well as SDG 16.

Link to Workplan and Budget item: 4.1.1.

Additional financial implications, if not included in the Workplan and Budget: None.

Related document(s): Rules of Procedure of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products.

## BACKGROUND

1. In accordance with Rule 4.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, at each regular session, the MOP shall decide on the date and duration of its next regular session.
2. In accordance with Rule 3, the sessions of the MOP shall be held at the seat of the Convention Secretariat, unless the MOP decides otherwise. Further, in decision FCTC/MOP1(11) the MOP decided to establish a formal requirement that Parties hosting a regular session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) must also host a session of the MOP immediately following the COP at the same geographic location and under the same circumstances whether or not the host Party is also a Party to the Protocol.
3. In accordance with Rule 24ter of the Rules of Procedure of the MOP, the Bureau of the MOP is mandated to propose the date and venue of sessions of the MOP.
4. At the time the present report was prepared, the Convention Secretariat is planning to send out an official communication concerning the Eleventh session of the COP (COP11) and the Fourth session of the MOP (MOP4) – *Call for interest to host COP11 and MOP4* – to all Parties to the WHO FCTC, requesting them to express interest prior to a communicated deadline. The communication will include a document – *Basic information for hosting a session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC and a session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products* – that will also be available on the WHO FCTC website. This document provides important information for Parties interested in hosting a session of the COP and MOP and details the essential requirements for host countries.
5. Once proposals are received, the Convention Secretariat will bring them to the attention of the Bureaus of the COP and MOP to determine whether the proposals match the requirements for hosting COP and MOP sessions. If they meet the requirements, the proposals will be forwarded to the COP and the MOP for consideration. If there is more than one proposal, the Bureaus will determine the criteria for the selection of the host country, taking into consideration the need for regional rotation and previous hosts, among other factors.

## DATES OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE MOP

6. Since there is no availability to organize COP11 and MOP4 in Geneva in 2025, the dates of the next regular sessions of the COP and MOP shall be determined by the Bureaus elected at the Tenth session of the COP and the Third session of the MOP, in accordance with the Bureaus mandate, after agreement with the host country and in consultation with the Convention Secretariat.

## ACTION BY THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES

7. The MOP is invited to note the present report and consider adopting the annexed draft decision.

ANNEX

**DRAFT DECISION  
DATE AND PLACE OF THE FOURTH SESSION  
OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

The Meeting of the Parties (MOP),

Taking into account Rule 3 of its Rules of Procedure, which provides that the sessions of the MOP shall be held at the seat of the Secretariat, unless the MOP decides otherwise;

Recalling decision FCTC/MOP1(11), establishing as a formal requirement for Parties hosting a regular session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) to also host a session of the MOP, immediately following the COP, at the same geographic location and under the same circumstances, regardless of whether the host Party is also a Party to the Protocol;

Thanking Parties for expressing interest in the call to host the Eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC and the Fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP4) to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products;

Considering that the following option has been proposed for convening MOP4,

1. DECIDES that MOP4 will be held in XXXX, with dates to be confirmed after agreement between the host country and the incoming Bureau, in consultation with the COP Bureau, and with the support of the Convention Secretariat.

(XXX plenary meeting, XX November 2023)

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