



**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° 2 – Tuesday 13 February 2024

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

Time	Event	Room
10:00	Third Plenary meeting	America Hall 1/2, first floor
Immediately following the closure of Plenary–13:00	Second meeting of Committee A	America Hall 1/2, first floor
Immediately following the closure of Plenary–13:00	Second meeting of Committee B	Canal Hall 1, ground floor
15:00–18:00	Third meeting of Committee A	America Hall 1/2, first floor
15:00–18:00	Third meeting of Committee B	Canal Hall 1, ground floor

### Informal regional meetings and the EU coordination meetings

08:30–09:30	Regional group for Africa	Caribe 6, ground floor
08:30–09:30	Regional group for the Americas	Caribe 5, ground floor
08:30–09:30	Regional group for the Eastern Mediterranean	Pacifico 3, ground floor
09:00–10:00	European Union coordination meeting ( <i>closed</i> )	ISTMO 1, first floor
09:00–10:00	Regional group for the Western Pacific	Caribe 3, ground floor
09:15–10:00	Regional group for South-East Asia	Caribe 2, 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 18:00–18:20	Daily press briefings	Pacífico 5, ground floor
	<b>Side events:</b>	
13:30–14:45	Assistance and Cooperation for the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products	Caribe 5, ground floor
13:30–14:45	The benefits of Parties' needs assessment for the implementation of the Protocol	Caribe 6, ground floor

**Meeting of the Bureau**

18:15–19:00	Meeting of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties ( <i>closed</i> )	ISTMO 1, first floor
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**Programme of work**

<b>Third Plenary meeting</b>	<b>10:00 – Plenary Hall, America Hall 1/2, first floor</b>
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**Item 1 (cont) Opening of the session**

Item 1.2 (cont) Credentials of participants  
Document FCTC/MOP/3/2

<b>Second and third meetings of Committee A</b>	<b>Following the closure of Plenary and 15:00 – Plenary Hall, America Hall 1/2, first floor</b>
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**Item 5 (cont) Protocol instruments and technical matters**

Item 5.2 Road map, timelines and steps to conduct evidence-based research (Articles 6.5 and 13.2)  
*Document FCTC/MOP/3/6*

**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)  
*Document FCTC/MOP/3/7*

<b>Second and third meetings of Committee B</b>	<b>Following the closure of Plenary and 15:00 – Canal Hall 1, ground floor</b>
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**Item 7 (cont) Budgetary and institutional matters**

Item 7.2 Proposed Workplan and Budget for the financial period 2024–2025  
*Documents FCTC/MOP/3/9 and FCTC/MOP/3/INF.DOC./1*

Item 7.3 Payment of Assessed Contributions and measures to reduce Parties in arrears  
*Document FCTC/MOP/3/10 Rev.1*

Item 7.4 Investment Fund for implementation of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products  
*Document FCTC/MOP/3/11*

Item 7.5 Review of accreditation of nongovernmental organizations with the status of observer to the Meeting of the Parties  
*Document FCTC/MOP/3/12*

Item 7.7 Appointment of the Head of the Convention Secretariat: report by the Bureau  
*Document FCTC/MOP/3/14*

Item 7.6 Possible amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Meeting of the Parties  
*Document FCTC/MOP/3/13*

## Report of meetings on Monday, 13 February 2024

### First Plenary meeting

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

The President opened the resumed third session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) and informed the Parties that the opening ceremony would be postponed to the second Plenary session. Dr Adriana Blanco Marquizo, Head of the Convention Secretariat, addressed the Meeting.

### Item 1 Opening of the session

#### Item 1.1 Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The President informed the MOP that the MOP3 will consider the provisional agenda as contained in documents FCTC/MOP/3/1 and further articulated in FCTC/MOP/3/1(annotated). Comments were invited from the floor. The draft decision was adopted and the agenda was approved.

It was agreed that Committee A would be entrusted with work on agenda items 5 and 6, and Committee B would focus on matters under agenda item 7. The remaining agenda items would be taken up in Plenary as follows:

Item 1.2 *Credentials of participants*

Item 2 *Applications for the status of observer to the Meeting of the Parties*

Item 3 *High-level Segment*

Item 4 *Global progress report in implementation of the Protocol, followed by a general debate*

Item 8 *Date and place of the fourth regular session of the Meeting of the Parties*

Item 9 *Election of the President and the Vice-Presidents of the Meeting of the Parties*

Item 10 *Adoption of the provisional report of the third session of the Meeting of the Parties*

Item 11 *Closure of the session*

The following delegates were elected to the office of Chairpersons: Dr Alan Gerard Ludowyke (Sri Lanka) for Committee A, and Mr Hugo Richard Mayer (Austria) for Committee B. Ms Alice Soila Kasero (Kenya) and Mr Vimal Deo (Fiji) were elected to the office of Vice-Chairpersons to Committee A. Dr Mansour Zafer Alqahtani (Saudi Arabia) and Dr Maria Graciela Gamarra de Cáceres (Paraguay) were elected to the office of Vice-Chairpersons to Committee B.

#### Item 1.2 Credentials of participants

The President announced that in accordance with Rule 19 of the Rules of Procedure, the Bureau would examine the credentials of the Parties participating in this session. It was recalled that, as indicated in decision FCTC/MOP3(1), the credentials accepted by the MOP for the de minimis session remained valid for the resumed session. Parties not listed in decision FCTC/MOP3(2) were requested to submit credentials in accordance with Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure. The President requested that the Convention Secretariat examine the credentials and report to the Plenary at a subsequent meeting, tentatively on Tuesday morning.

### Item 2 Applications for the status of observers to the MOP

In accordance with Rules 30 and 31 of the Rules of Procedure, the President informed the MOP that four applications for observer status had been submitted to the Convention Secretariat, as noted in document FCTC/MOP/3/3. Following the Bureau recommendation, the MOP decided to grant observer status:

(a) to the one applying international intergovernmental organization: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); and,

(b) to the following three nongovernmental organizations:

African Tobacco Control Alliance (ATCA), InterAmerican Heart Foundation (IAHF) and Union for International Cancer Control (UICC).

The Bureau also reviewed applications from the following four organizations: African Youths Initiative on Crime Prevention, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Humanitarian Organization for Poverty Eradication (HOPE), Joseph Adedayo Foundation and recommended to reject the four applications. The MOP agreed with the recommendations and observer status was rejected for all four organizations. The adopted decision also contained in Annex the indicative list of criteria to be used by the Bureau to recommend to the MOP whether to grant or reject applications from organizations for observer status.

#### **Item 4      Global progress in implementation of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products**

Delegations were invited to take the floor under agenda item 4 *Global progress in implementation of the Protocol* on the theme “More Parties, Greater Traceability, Less Illicit Trade”. The agenda item was closed and the meeting adjourned.

### **Second Plenary meeting**

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

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

Opening remarks

As President of the MOP, Ms Hekali Zhimomi, delivered her opening remarks. At the invitation of the President, the Head of the Convention Secretariat, Dr Adriana Blanco Marquizo, addressed the MOP.

#### **Item 3      High-level segment**

The moderator, Mr Aris Abrego, Director of Communications at the Ministry of Health of Panama, introduced the video messages by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, and Mr Pranam Kumar Das, Director for Compliance and Facilitation of the World Customs Organization.

The moderator invited Mr Novica Vuković, Minister of Finance of Montenegro and Ms Melissa M. Flynn, UNODC Deputy Regional Representative for Central America and the Caribbean to address the MOP.

The Vice-Minister of Health of Panama, Dr Ivette Berrio Aquí, delivered her inaugural speech.

The President declared the agenda item closed and the meeting was adjourned.

## First meeting of Committee A

In the chair: Dr Alan Ludowyke (Sri Lanka)

The Chair opened the meeting and announced that, as agreed in the Plenary, Committee A would consider the items under agenda Item 5, *Protocol instruments and technical matters*, and agenda Item 6, *Reporting, implementation assistance and international cooperation*.

The Chair then introduced Ms Alice Soila Kasero (Kenya) and Mr Vimal Deo (Fiji) as the Vice-Chairs of Committee A.

### Item 5 Protocol instrument and technical matters

- Item 5.1 – Tracking and Tracing Systems, including the global information-sharing focal point (Article 8): report by the Working Group

The Committee was invited to note document FCTC/MOP/3/5, provide further guidance and consider adopting the annexed draft decision. The Chair drew the Committee's attention to the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group.

The Chair gave the floor to Mr Shashank Rai, from the United Nations International Computing Centre, to highlight the characteristics of the current interim solution for the global information-sharing focal point and those of potential future versions.

Comments were then invited from the floor. The Convention Secretariat provided clarification on future actions related to the implementation of the global information-sharing focal point, including of consideration of its experiences in future MOP sessions.

The report was noted and the draft decision approved, as proposed.

The meeting was adjourned.

## First meeting of Committee B

In the chair: Dr Hugo Mayer (Austria)

The Chair opened the meeting and introduced Dr Mansour Zafer Alqahtani (Saudi Arabia) and Dr Maria Graciela Gamarra de Cáceres (Paraguay) as the Vice-Chairs of Committee B. The Chair then invited the Committee to agree on taking the agenda items sequentially, with one exception. He proposed agenda item 7.6 to be considered following item 7.7, considering that deliberations under agenda item 7.7 will impact considerations under item 7.6.

Agenda item 7.2 will remain open and will be discussed at the very end of the Committee's business. The Parties agreed with the Chair's proposal concerning the order of the programme of work of Committee B.

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

- Item 7.1 Performance and progress reports

The agenda item was opened and the Chair invited the Committee to note the a) Performance report for the 2020–2021 Workplan and Budget and b) the Interim performance report for the 2022–2023 Workplan and Budget, as contained in document FCTC/MOP/3/8. The Chair invited comments from the floor and the Convention Secretariat responded to the issues raised. The reports were noted and the agenda item was closed.

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](mailto: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](mailto:cop10-mop3@who.int)

**Committee A:** [fctcComA@who.int](mailto:fctcComA@who.int)

**Committee B:** [fctcComB@who.int](mailto: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:

- Monday, 12 February to 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 will be available and posted on the WHO FCTC website at the opening of the session. This list will be 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.