



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

**FCTC/MOP3(20)
14 February 2024**

**Third session (resumed)
Panama City, Panama, 12–15 February 2024**

DECISION

FCTC/MOP3(20) MOP3 Panama Declaration

The Meeting of the Parties (MOP),

Recalling the Preamble to the Constitution of the World Health Organization, which states that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental right of every human being;

Recalling also Article 15 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), in which Parties recognize that the elimination of all forms of illicit trade in tobacco products, including smuggling and illicit manufacturing, is an essential component of tobacco control;

Recognizing that illicit trade in tobacco products increases the accessibility and affordability of tobacco products, and that it undermines not only health objectives but also the economies of Parties and their stability and security;

Emphasizing the need to be alert to, and informed of, attempts and strategies employed by the tobacco industry and those working to further its interests to undermine efforts to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products;

Reiterating that effective action to prevent and combat illicit trade in tobacco products requires a comprehensive international approach to, and close cooperation on, all aspects of illicit trade in tobacco, tobacco products and manufacturing equipment;

Recalling the importance of other relevant international agreements on illicit trade in tobacco, tobacco products and manufacturing equipment and the need to build enhanced cooperation among Parties to the Protocol with support of the Convention Secretariat and competent international organizations;

Recognizing the need for all Parties to implement fully the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, and to cooperate, with each other and through competent international and regional organizations, in the implementation of the Protocol;

Reiterating the determination of Parties to prioritize their right to protect public health,

1. RESOLVES to strengthen action to accelerate implementation of the Protocol and to prioritize activities, in particular the development of tracking and tracing systems and the implementation of a global information-sharing focal point, among others;

2. EXPRESSES its concern in relation to efforts of the tobacco industry and those working to further its interests, and of other commercial entities with vested interests, to interfere in national public health, fiscal, law enforcement and regulatory policies including by influencing decision-making processes in regional and international forums in relation to the elimination of illicit trade in tobacco products;
3. CALLS ON all Parties to the WHO FCTC that have not done so to ratify, accept, approve, formally confirm or accede to the Protocol at the earliest opportunity;
4. URGES the Parties:
 - (a) to fully engage in effective, appropriate and comprehensive domestic and international responses to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products, in accordance with their international obligations under the Protocol;
 - (b) to accelerate action in fulfilling their obligations under Articles 6 and 8 of the Protocol;
 - (c) to strengthen measures to protect the implementation of the Protocol from the interference of the tobacco industry and those working to further its interests, and of other commercial entities with vested interests, in accordance with Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC and Articles 4.2, 8.12 and 8.13 of the Protocol;
 - (d) to continue requesting international and regional organizations in which they are members to support the implementation of the Protocol and to acknowledge its role in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
 - (e) to enhance cooperation among the Parties and with relevant regional and international intergovernmental organizations, to facilitate the exchange of information, best practices and lessons learned, as relevant to the implementation of the Protocol;
 - (f) to commit to secure the supply chain and to assist in the investigation of illicit trade in tobacco products, to the development of tracking and tracing systems and the implementation of a global information-sharing focal point;
5. REQUESTS the Convention Secretariat to promote this Declaration among the Parties and at relevant international forums, and to support Parties, including through the provision of technical assistance in implementing the Protocol, in taking action in achieving the implementation of the goals of this Declaration.

(Fourth plenary meeting, 14 February 2024)

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