



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

**(Draft) FCTC/MOP/3/A/R/1
12 February 2024**

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

First report of Committee A

(Draft)

At its first plenary meeting on 12 February 2024, the Meeting of the Parties elected the following delegates to Committee A: Dr Alan Gerard Ludowyke (Sri Lanka) as Chairperson, and Ms Soila Alice Kasero (Kenya) and Mr Vimal Deo (Fiji) as Vice-Chairpersons.

Committee A held its first meeting on 12 February 2024, under the chairmanship of Dr Alan Gerard Ludowyke (Sri Lanka).

Committee A recommends to the Meeting of the Parties the adoption of the attached decision related to the following agenda item:

5. Protocol instruments and technical matters

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

One decision entitled:

- Global information-sharing focal point

Agenda item 5.1

Global information-sharing focal point

The Meeting of the Parties (MOP),

Recalling Article 8 of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products;

Noting the report prepared by the Working Group on Tracking and Tracing Systems (Article 8) contained in document FCTC/MOP/3/5;

Noting also the report prepared by the Convention Secretariat on the collection of information on tracking and tracing systems for tobacco products;

Noting further the recent implementation of the interim global information-sharing focal point since September 2023, in accordance with decision FCTC/MOP2(6);

Considering that this interim global information-sharing focal point complies with the legal obligation for Parties to have a focal point located in the Convention Secretariat and accessible to all Parties, in order to request and receive data stored in national and regional tracking and tracing systems with a view to eliminating illicit trade in tobacco products, as per Article 8, paragraphs 1, 3 and 8;

Recognizing that, given the higher costs for more advanced versions of the global information-sharing focal point, progressive implementation of additional features must be proportionate to the needs and available resources;

Considering the road map and recommended criteria developed by the Working Group;

Noting with satisfaction the outcome of the Working Group, which has completed its mandate in relation to the global information-sharing focal point, and thankful for the work of Parties that participated in the consultation processes,

1. ADOPTS the recommendations as provided under paragraph 41 of the report FCTC/MOP/3/5.
2. REMINDS Parties:
 - (a) of their obligation to establish a tracking and tracing system for cigarettes within a period of five years and for other tobacco products within a period of 10 years from the entry into force of the Protocol for each Party, in accordance with Article 8, paragraph 3;
 - (b) to inform the Convention Secretariat with respect to their tracking and tracing systems for tobacco products;
 - (c) to make appropriate use of the global information-sharing focal point, notably in relation to compliance with provisions related to security, confidentiality and protection of data, in accordance with Article 8, paragraphs 8 and 9.

3. INVITES Parties:

- (a) to share experience including good practices, challenges and lessons learned about their tracking and tracing systems;
- (b) to provide the Convention Secretariat with information on the pattern of their unique identification marking as defined under Article 8, paragraph 3, of the Protocol, and to update this information when needed; this information will populate a library of unique identification marking(s) patterns made available in the global information-sharing focal point to enable requests to be properly directed to the appropriate Party;
- (c) to designate authorities and physical persons operating as administrators at the national and regional levels, in charge of issuing credentials and granting access rights to the final users;
- (d) to inform the Convention Secretariat of the designated contact points operating as administrators and to update these data when needed;
- (e) to issue credentials and grant access rights to the final users for sending requests and replying to requests, in accordance with access rights policy, as well as to keep records of the rights granted;
- (f) to make the best use of the global information-sharing focal point to support the global action to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products;
- (g) to inform the Convention Secretariat of any difficulties in the use of the global information-sharing focal point;
- (h) to rely on the recommended quantitative and qualitative criteria to take further decisions on possible future development of more advanced versions of the global information-sharing focal point.

4. REQUESTS the Convention Secretariat:

- (a) to continue operating the global information-sharing focal point as established since September 2023 with a view to ensuring efficient exchange of information between the Parties in accordance with Article 8 of the Protocol;
- (b) to establish the library of unique identification marking(s) patterns, to be made available in the global information-sharing focal point, and to maintain it updated;
- (c) to grant and update administrator rights to the designated user based on requests from the Parties, as well as to keep a record of such granted rights;
- (d) to continue collecting information on national and regional tracking and tracing systems and to report on their findings to the MOP;
- (e) to monitor the use of the global information-sharing focal point, including collecting statistics from the system and qualitative data, as described in report FCTC/MOP/3/5, as well as any relevant feedback from Parties using the systems;
- (f) to regularly report on the use of the global information-sharing focal point to the MOP and to the Bureau.

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