



WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
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Written message from the UN Secretary-General Mr António Guterres

I send my warm greetings to this tenth Conference of the Parties to the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Tobacco is a global cancer. It kills a person around every four seconds, fuels poverty and inequality, wrecks the environment, and contributes to the climate crisis, as precious forests are lost to tobacco plantations. A staggering four and a half trillion cigarette butts are littered every year, and new electronic smoking devices have created new forms of hazardous waste.

In short, tobacco works against the Sustainable Development Goals and particularly Goal three on healthy lives and well-being for all.

The World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, or WHO FCTC, is a how-to guide to tackle this menace. And we know its measures work. We must strengthen our resolve to implement the WHO FCTC and work together to put it into effect. We must address tobacco industry meddling in health policy. And we must remain vigilant as the tobacco industry develops new products and devices in its quest to turn children into addicts.

COP10 can play an important role in driving progress. I urge you to make it count.

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