



## **Strengthening synergies between the Conference of the Parties and the World Health Assembly**

### **Report by the WHO Director-General on resolutions and decisions of the World Health Assembly**

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

The Head of the Convention Secretariat has the honour to transmit to the Eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) the report submitted by the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) on resolutions and decisions at the Seventy-seventh and Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly, the 157th session of the WHO Executive Board, and the WHO regional committees relevant to the implementation of the WHO FCTC.

#### **Action by the Conference of the Parties**

The COP is invited to note the present report.

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

Link to Workplan and Budget item: None.

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

Related document(s): Relevant resolutions and decisions of the World Health Assembly and WHO regional committees.

## Background

1. In accordance with decisions WHA69(13)<sup>1</sup> and WHA70(20)<sup>2</sup> on strengthening synergies between the World Health Assembly and the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), the present report provides information to the COP on the resolutions and decisions of the World Health Assembly, the 157th session of the WHO Executive Board, and the WHO regional committees that are relevant for tobacco-related action.

### Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly (2024) – resolutions and decisions relevant to implementation of the WHO FCTC

2. Resolution WHA77.1<sup>3</sup> approved the Fourteenth General Programme of Work, 2025–2028 (GPW 14), which reinforces commitments to reduce risk factors for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), including tobacco use.

3. Resolution WHA77.12<sup>4</sup> urged Member States “to ensure that actions are undertaken at sport events and settings ... to limit the marketing of unhealthy products as well as to prohibit or restrict the advertising, promotion and sponsorship of tobacco, in accordance with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control”.

4. Through decision WHA77(11),<sup>5</sup> the World Health Assembly accepted the Results Report 2023 contained in document A77/19.<sup>6</sup> The Report noted: “Tobacco use is declining in 150 countries, 56 of which are on track to achieve the global target for reducing tobacco use by 2025. However, the relative reduction in global tobacco use projected for 2025 falls short of the 30% target and the WHO Secretariat is working with more than 40 countries to strengthen tobacco control policies at the highest level in order to reduce tobacco use.”

### Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly (2025) – resolutions, decisions and documents relevant to implementation of the WHO FCTC

5. Resolution WHA78.2<sup>7</sup> approved the budget for 2026–2027: the first to be prepared under GPW 14. The budget allocated a total base segment of US\$ 4267.1 million, of which US\$ 399.9 million was allocated to the strategic priority “Promote health”, which includes tobacco

---

<sup>1</sup> [Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly, Geneva, 23–28 May 2016: resolutions and decisions, annexes](#). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2016 (accessed 28 July 2025): p. 69.

<sup>2</sup> [Seventieth World Health Assembly: Geneva, 22–31 May 2017: resolutions and decisions, annexes](#). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2017 (accessed 28 July 2025): pp. 47–48.

<sup>3</sup> [Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly: Geneva, 27 May–1 June 2024: resolutions and decisions, annexes](#). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2024 (accessed 28 July 2025): p. 3.

<sup>4</sup> [Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly: Geneva, 27 May–1 June 2024: resolutions and decisions, annexes](#). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2024 (accessed 28 July 2025): pp. 38–42.

<sup>5</sup> [Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly: Geneva, 27 May–1 June 2024: resolutions and decisions, annexes](#). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2024 (accessed 28 July 2025): p. 122.

<sup>6</sup> [Results Report 2023 and Financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023](#). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2024 (accessed 28 July 2025).

<sup>7</sup> [Programme budget 2026–2027](#). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2025 (accessed 28 July 2025).

control. The budget represented a decrease of US\$ 701.1 million in the total base segment compared to the approved budget for 2024–2025.

6. Resolution WHA78.5<sup>8</sup> underscored the importance of an integrated approach to lung health, addressing communicable, noncommunicable and occupational lung diseases. The resolution highlights tobacco use as a major risk factor, noting that over 45% of tobacco-related deaths are due to lung diseases. The resolution also draws attention to the harms of second-hand smoke and vaping aerosols. It urges Member States to strengthen or establish primary prevention measures – particularly those focused on tobacco and vaping control – and to incorporate lung health services into primary healthcare and universal health coverage. Resolution WHA78.5 also requested the WHO Director-General to provide an initial report containing, among other information, recommendations and key components to further strengthen lung health for consideration at the Eightieth World Health Assembly in 2027.

7. Resolution WHA78.12<sup>9</sup> urged Member States to strengthen health financing, including by considering introducing and increasing taxes on tobacco, sugar and alcohol to increase revenue and reduce key risk factors for NCDs.

8. Through decision WHA78(17),<sup>10</sup> the World Health Assembly accepted the Results Report 2024 contained in document A78/17.<sup>11</sup> The Report noted that “an estimated 1.4 billion more people enjoy healthier lives, exceeding the target of 1 billion people, driven by key public health gains in the areas of reduced tobacco use, improved air quality, clean household fuels and better access to water, sanitation and hygiene”. It further noted that “WHO has supported more than 100 countries to strengthen evidence-based policies on tobacco, alcohol, diet and physical activity”.

9. Document A78/4<sup>12</sup> recalled that the WHO Executive Board “noted that the forthcoming fourth high-level meeting [on NCDs in September 2025] would provide an opportunity to call for multisectoral action to accelerate progress on noncommunicable diseases and mental health”. Separately, the President of the United Nations General Assembly and the co-facilitators of the intergovernmental negotiations circulated for comment a zero draft<sup>13</sup> of the Political declaration of the Fourth High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and the promotion of mental health and well-being.

---

<sup>8</sup> [Promoting and prioritizing an integrated lung health approach](#). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2025 (accessed 28 July 2025).

<sup>9</sup> [Strengthening health financing globally](#). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2025 (accessed 28 July 2025).

<sup>10</sup> [Results report 2024 \(Programme budget 2024–2025: performance assessment\) and Financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024](#). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2025 (accessed 28 July 2025).

<sup>11</sup> [Results report 2024 and Financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024](#). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2025 (accessed 28 July 2025).

<sup>12</sup> [Consolidated report by the Director-General](#). Geneva: World Health Organization (accessed 28 July 2025).

<sup>13</sup> [Zero draft: Political declaration of the fourth high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and the promotion of mental health and well-being](#). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2025 (accessed 28 July 2025).

10. Document A78/INF./2<sup>14</sup> provided the results of an independent evaluation of the WHO global coordination mechanism on the prevention and control of NCDs. The report assessed progress, identified key achievements, and made recommendations related to the role of the global coordination mechanism in advancing multisectoral and multistakeholder engagement.

### **157th session of the WHO Executive Board – report relevant to implementation of the WHO FCTC**

11. In compliance with Regulation 4.23 of the Regulations for Expert Advisory Panels and Committees, the Director-General submitted the report of the Twelfth meeting of the WHO Study Group on Tobacco Product Regulation, along with other reports on meetings of expert committees and study groups to the 157th session of the WHO Executive Board.<sup>15</sup> The report, which includes a summary of the recommendations contained in the Study Group's report and their significance for public health policies and implications for the Organization's programmes, was submitted on 29 May 2025 and noted by the WHO Executive Board.

### **WHO regional committees – resolutions, decisions and documents relevant to implementation of the WHO FCTC**

12. Resolution CD61.R12<sup>16</sup> set out the Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Tobacco Control in the Region of the Americas 2025–2030. The resolution reaffirmed the commitment of Member States to accelerate the implementation of the WHO FCTC. It urged Member States, among other actions, to prioritize adoption of comprehensive legal measures to reduce tobacco use; strengthen the use of tobacco tax policies; strengthen primary health care services; consider ratifying the WHO FCTC and the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products; strengthen national measures and international cooperation to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products; counter industry interference; strengthen national surveillance systems; and take into account the environmental impact of tobacco.

13. Document EM/RC70/INF.DOC.4-Rev.1<sup>17</sup> provided a progress report on the implementation of the regional tobacco control strategy in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. It noted that, "since adopting the regional strategy and action plan in 2018, 18 countries and territories out of 22 have developed and adopted national strategies and/or action plans that include the commitments reflected in the strategy". It also noted the need for further progress towards encouraging countries in the Region to become Parties to the WHO FCTC and the Protocol. In addition, it provided updates on demand reduction measures; surveillance, monitoring and research; and challenges facing tobacco control efforts in the Region.

---

<sup>14</sup> [The role of the global coordination mechanism on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases in WHO's work on multistakeholder engagement for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases: report on independent evaluation](#). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2025 (accessed 28 July 2025).

<sup>15</sup> [Matters for information: report on meetings of expert committees and study groups: report by the Director-General](#). Geneva: World Health Organization; 2025 (accessed 28 July 2025).

<sup>16</sup> [CD61.R12 - Strategy and Plan of Action to Strengthen Tobacco Control in the Region of the Americas 2025–2030](#). Washington, D.C.: Pan American Health Organization; 2024 (accessed 28 July 2025).

<sup>17</sup> [Progress report on the implementation of the regional tobacco control strategy](#). Cairo: Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean; 2023 (accessed 28 July 2025).

14. Document EM/RC71/INF.DOC.10<sup>18</sup> provided a progress report of the High-level Ministerial Group on the Control of Tobacco and Emerging Tobacco and Nicotine Products in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. It noted that the Group had met four times, focusing on the general status of tobacco control in the Region, taxes for tobacco and nicotine products, and implementation of WHO strategies on tobacco control. Resolution EM/RC71/R.2<sup>19</sup> extended the mandate of the High-level Ministerial Group for two more years until 2026, and expanded its membership from six to ten Member States.

15. Resolution SEA/RC76/R5<sup>20</sup> urged Member States in the South-East Asia Region to implement the SEAHEARTS Initiative to reduce risk factors of cardiovascular disease, including tobacco use. It also urged Member States to consider implementing the interventions in the Dhaka Call to Action, which includes scaling up WHO MPOWER measures to help countries reduce demand for tobacco.<sup>21</sup>

## Action by the Conference of the Parties

16. The COP is invited to note the present report.

---

---

<sup>18</sup> [Progress report on the work of the High-level Ministerial Group on the Control of Tobacco and Emerging Tobacco and Nicotine Products in the Eastern Mediterranean Region](#). Cairo: Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean; 2024 (accessed 28 July 2025).

<sup>19</sup> [Annual report of the Regional Director for 2023](#). Cairo: Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean; 2024 (accessed 28 July 2025).

<sup>20</sup> [SEAHEARTS: accelerating prevention and control of cardiovascular diseases in the South-East Asia Region](#). New Delhi: WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia; 2023 (accessed 28 July 2025).

<sup>21</sup> [SEAHEARTS: Accelerating prevention and control of cardiovascular diseases in the South-East Asia Region – Dhaka Call to Action](#). New Delhi: WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia; 2023 (accessed 28 July 2025).