



## **Date and place of the Twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties**

### **Report by the Convention Secretariat**

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

This report proposes a date and place for the Twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP12) to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. It also makes reference to the basic requirements for Parties to host future sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP).

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

The COP is invited to note the present report and consider adopting the annexed draft decision to decide the date and place of COP12.

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

Link to Workplan and Budget item: 4.2.2.

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

Related document(s): Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

## Background

1. In accordance with Rule 4.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), at each regular session the COP shall decide on the date and duration of its next regular session.
2. In accordance with Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the COP, the sessions of the COP shall be held at the seat of the Convention Secretariat, unless the COP decides otherwise. Further, in decision FCTC/COP8(14), the COP decided to establish a formal requirement that Parties hosting a regular session of the COP must also host a session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products – immediately following the COP at the same geographical location and under the same circumstances – whether or not the host Party is also a Party to the Protocol.
3. In accordance with Rule 24ter of the Rules of Procedure of the COP, the Bureau of the COP is mandated to propose the date and venue of sessions of the COP.
4. In note verbale CS/NV/25/12, the Convention Secretariat sent out an official call for interest in hosting the Twelfth session of the COP (COP12) and the Fifth session of the MOP (MOP5) to all Parties to the WHO FCTC, requesting them to express interest prior to a communicated deadline. The communication included a document – *Handbook for hosting sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products* – that will also be available on the WHO FCTC website. This document provides important information for Parties interested in hosting a session of the COP and MOP, and details the essential requirements for host countries.
5. Once proposals are received, the Convention Secretariat will bring them to the attention of the Bureaus of the COP and MOP to determine whether the proposals match the requirements for hosting COP and MOP sessions. If they meet the requirements, the proposals will be forwarded to the COP and MOP for consideration. If there is more than one proposal, the Bureaus will determine the criteria for selection of the host country, taking into consideration the need for regional rotation and previous hosts, among other factors.
6. It is recalled that, in the previous cycle, the Convention Secretariat had not received a firm expression of interest in response to its call to Parties to express interest in hosting the Eleventh session of the COP (COP11) and the Fourth session of the MOP (MOP4). Pursuant to decision FCTC/COP10(9) and in accordance with Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the COP, arrangements were made for COP11 and MOP4 to be held at the seat of the Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, albeit at different venues – at the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG) for the COP and World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters for the MOP.

## Dates of the Twelfth session of the COP

7. At the time of writing this report, the Convention Secretariat continues to explore with the CICG its availability to host COP12 and MOP5 in 2027, during the period at which the sessions are regularly held. The CICG indicated that it would be able to provide an answer to the Secretariat during the second quarter of 2026. Should availability be confirmed, it is to be noted that costs in Geneva are expected to increase by 2027. In this context, and based on the experience highlighted in paragraph 6, the Convention Secretariat continues to actively engage with Parties with a view to receiving an expression of interest in hosting COP12 and MOP5.

8. Since availability to organize COP12 and MOP5 in Geneva in 2027 is not yet confirmed, it is proposed that the dates of the next regular sessions of the COP and MOP shall be determined by the Bureaus elected at COP11 and MOP4, in accordance with the Bureaus' mandate, after agreement with the potential host country and in consultation with the Convention Secretariat.

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

9. The COP is invited to note the present report and consider adopting the annexed draft decision.

## **Annex**

### **Draft decision: Date and place of the Twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties**

The Conference of the Parties (COP),

Taking into account Rule 3 of its Rules of Procedure, which provides that the sessions of the COP shall be held at the seat of the Convention Secretariat, unless the COP decides otherwise;

Recalling decision FCTC/COP8(14), establishing as a formal requirement for Parties hosting a regular session of the COP to also host a session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, immediately following the COP, at the same geographical location and under the same circumstances, regardless of whether or not the host Party is also a Party to the Protocol;

Thanking Parties for expressing interest in the call to host the Twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP12) to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and the Fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;

Considering that the following option has been proposed for convening COP12,

DECIDES that COP12 will be held in XXXX, with dates to be confirmed after agreement between the host country and the incoming Bureau, in consultation with the MOP Bureau, and with the support of the Convention Secretariat.

(XXX plenary meeting, XX November 2025)

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