

Art. 17 - Alternatives to tobacco growing



WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

Article 17

Article 17 - Provision of support for economically viable alternative activities

Parties shall, in cooperation with each other and with competent international and regional intergovernmental organizations, promote, as appropriate, economically viable alternatives for tobacco workers, growers and, as the case may be, individual sellers.

Decisions taken at COP7

1. To encourage Parties not growing tobacco to not introduce tobacco growing
2. To urge Parties to adopt a whole-of-government and stakeholder participatory approaches (keeping in mind Article 5.3) in promoting alternatives to tobacco growing, and avoid tobacco industry obstruction in programmes meant for the welfare and diversification of tobacco growers and workers and the protection of the environment, as appropriate in the national context
3. To urge Parties to call for policy coherence in the mandates of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations
4. To urge the international community to support mobilization of resources to promote economically viable alternatives to tobacco growers and workers

Requests made by COP7 to FCTC secretariat

1. To coordinate with civil society and IGOs with relevant expertise to support interested parties in developing pilot projects, with emphasis on whole-of-government approach policies or initiatives
2. To develop, in cooperation with the parties, a toolkit for the implementation of the Livelihoods Methodology (*who is involved? – nothing developed so far*)
3. To invite the FAO to include the promotion of economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing as part of its sustainable rural development agenda
4. To promote international cooperation / exchange of information among interested Parties
5. To document experiences and lessons learnt on alternative livelihoods, organize and update international database of resources, of best practices, instruments and measures
6. To monitor progress on Parties' implementation of Articles 17 and 18 and report on progress at COP8

To think about

Promotion of economically viable livelihoods

- The FCTC does not prohibit the production of tobacco or restrict national policies of support for tobacco growers
- Diversified livelihoods for tobacco growers as appropriate based on the results of a number of years of successful field studies should be supported and promoted, fully consulting tobacco growers' organizations
- The support of international agencies should be obtained in the development of new value chains which must provide at least the same value as tobacco to the farmers and the country's trade balance

Art. 18 - Health and environmental protection



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Article 18 - Protection of the environment and the health of persons

In carrying out their obligations under this Convention, **the Parties agree to have due regard to the protection of the environment and the health of persons** in relation to the environment in respect of tobacco cultivation and manufacture within their respective territories.

Requests made by COP7 to FCTC secretariat

- To strengthen collaboration with UNWOMEN, UNICEF, WHO and the NGOs to develop strategies to protect women and youth from the negative effects of tobacco farming.
- To establish collaboration with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and UNEP to conduct studies to estimate the environmental effects of tobacco growing.
- To promote international cooperation among interested Parties.
- To request the WHO to support interested Parties to develop guidelines for surveillance, prevention and early diagnosis of occupational harms and risks specific to tobacco cultivation and manufacture.
- To invite WHO and other IGOs to prepare a report for COP8 on the environmental impact of tobacco lifecycle with strategies to mitigate it and policy options to address it, for the benefit of public health and environment (*published June 2017*).
- To support Parties to advance initiatives as appropriate, aimed at raising awareness about the occupational and environmental risks related to tobacco growing, in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- To monitor progress on Parties' implementation and report on progress at COP8.

Health protection

- The FCTC Secretariat is actively lobbying governments and international organizations to prevent any collaboration with the tobacco sector to improve the health of farmers, workers and especially young people who may perform work on farms.
- In doing this the FCTC is preventing Parties to implement Article 18.
- In Africa
 - Partnerships between the ILO and the Foundation for the Elimination of Child Labour in Tobacco and Japan Tobacco ARISE project to protect young and vulnerable people need to be protected and reinforced.
 - The matter will be raised again at the next Governing Body of the ILO.
- Human Rights Watch published a report on child labour in Zimbabwe highlighting cases of pesticide exposure and Green Tobacco Sickness.

Environmental protection

June 2017: WHO issued a report on the environmental impact of tobacco.

- Misquote of studies listed as evidence.
- Presentation of data out of context.
- Incorrect figures from the environmental reports of tobacco companies.
- No inclusion of efforts made to address wood consumption and deforestation.
- Presentation of tobacco growing as the leading cause of climate change and pollution.

Environmental protection and climate change

- In March 2018 at the WCTOH, the Head of the FCTC Secretariat announced that "COP8 will host a high-level segment with the participation of government authorities for a dynamic and inspiring discussion on climate change and tobacco control, two of the biggest challenges the world faces".
- Toolkit for delegates (April 2018); COP sessions might include a High-level Segment. The objective is to bring together Heads of States /Governments, ministers from various ministries and heads of UN agencies to raise the profile of the WHO FCTC and discuss the implementation of the treaty.
- If the arguments are wrong, also the conclusions of the debate are wrong.

To think about

Health

- Transparent work with the International Labour Office and the tobacco sector should continue to advance appropriate initiatives aimed at raising awareness about the occupational risks related to tobacco growing.

Environment

- Transparent work with the tobacco sector and the tobacco-growing communities should continue to advance appropriate initiatives aimed at raising awareness on the importance to maintain and protect the environment and addressing wood consumption.
- Collaboration in sharing the best practices implemented in tobacco growing should continue.
- Biased, misleading and incorrect reports on the environmental impact of tobacco growing and the tobacco value chain should be rejected.