



Tobacco Control through the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)

The World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) at its Annual Meeting of May 19, 2003, in Geneva, Switzerland, voted to endorse the appended Policy Statement of the American Public Health Association, in which the national delegations to the Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly in May 2003 in Geneva are **urged not to re-open discussion** on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control as transmitted by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body on 1 March 2003, and to **vote in favor of the Convention without any changes**.

The WFPHA takes note of the fact that the present Convention text as supported by over 150 countries at INB6 takes concerns of the U.S.A. and some other countries about possible conflicts with their national constitutions into account, and that the countries of the economically deprived parts of the world most in need for protection against the expanding tobacco epidemic, are best served by not allowing the discussion to be re-opened.

Geneva, 19 May, 2003

Appendix: Policy Statement of the American Public Health Association

The American Public Health Association,

Recognizing that the 171 of the world's nations reached agreement on text for a Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) at the treaty's final negotiating session in February-March 2003 in Geneva under World Health Organization (WHO) auspices, and

Recognizing that the convention or treaty contains strong provisions for national and global tobacco control of which a number are consistent with measures called for in previous APHA resolutions, including a ban on all advertising, promotion and sponsorship of tobacco products¹; using tax and price measures to reduce tobacco consumption, particularly in young people²; requiring tobacco product packaging to include clear health warnings that are at least 30 percent of the display area³, and proposing guidelines for testing and measuring the contents and emissions of tobacco products, and for the regulation of these contents and emissions⁴; and

Recognizing that the convention addresses the need for financial and technical assistance for developing countries in a number of sectors and situations, especially during treaty implementation, and that this is consistent with APHA's resolution in calling for the establishment of a global financing mechanism or multilateral trust fund to assist developing countries during convention implementation,⁵ and

Reaffirming the long standing policies of the American Public Health Association, including those cited above as well as others, therefore

1. Recommends that the US government support the provisions of the treaty which are in keeping with APHA's policies on tobacco control noted above, by urging all nations to adopt at the World Health Assembly in May 2003 the FCTC text without further discussion and/or revision, and as agreed at the sixth and final INB session that ended March 1, 2003, and, subsequently, the US government appeal to individual governments to sign the adopted text and secure its ratification allowing the Convention to come into force, and



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2. Recommends to its partner member associations in the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) that they consider a policy statement expressing strong support for the FCTC text at the Federation's 37th Annual Meeting on May 19, 2003 in Geneva and that the Federation make known its position by presenting this statement to the World Health Assembly in May. This position may include reference to the substantive, tobacco-related provisions of the convention referred to above but may also address the need for technical assistance support for developing countries during Convention implementation and the role that the Federation may play in helping meet that need.

¹ Article 13, Section 4, WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, March 2003; Policy Resolution 9808, "National Tobacco Control Legislation," American Public Health Association; Policy Resolution 9809, "An International Tobacco Control Policy" American Public Health Association.

² Article 6, Section 1, FCTC; APHA Resolution, 9808.

³ Article 11, Section 1, FCTC; APHA Policy Resolution 9809.

⁴ Article 9, FCTC; APHA Resolution 9808 and Resolution 9913, Administrative and Judicial Control

⁵ Part VII, "Scientific and Technical Cooperation and Communication of Information, and Articles 20 (Research, surveillance and exchange of information) and Article 21 (Reporting and exchange of Information) and Article 22 (Cooperation in the scientific, technical and legal fields and provision of related expertise), FCTC; APHA Resolution 2001-24, Trust Fund for Developing Countries to Meet National Commitment under the WHO Framework Convention for Tobacco Control.