



Tobacco Control

Passed by the WFPHA General Assembly - 2000

The World Federation of Public Health Associations,

Recognizing that the tobacco pandemic continues to claim many lives worldwide, with current estimates of 3 million dying annually from tobacco or tobacco-related causes and projected estimates expected to reach 10 million deaths globally by 2030;

Recognizing, further, that growing tobacco-related morbidity and mortality will be much greater in developing countries than in developed countries, including a number of nations where the Federation has member associations;

Committed to the view that public health considerations take pre-eminence over other concerns (viz. economic) in deciding the issues to include in the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC);

Reaffirming the policies of the World Federation of Public Health Associations in support of global tobacco control, demonstrated by the 1998 endorsement of a Position Paper on Tobacco by its General Assembly, therefore;

1. Supports the WHO effort to develop and enact the FCTC;
2. Recommends Tobacco Control Legislation, specifically
 - (1) Regulate tobacco as an addictive drug and cigarettes and other tobacco products as drug delivery systems
 - (2) Prohibit tobacco sales to minors, with strict enforcement and monitoring mechanisms
 - (3) Ban all direct and indirect tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship of sporting and cultural events
 - (4) Set up structures to facilitate communication among health sectors and other sectors of government and society to build support for and enforce strict smoking control legislation
 - (5) Restrict tobacco use in public for protection of persons from involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke
 - (6) Introduce strong health and addiction warning labels on the package and in the local language, for all tobacco products
 - (7) Ensure that the legal rights of persons not party to any



national agreement or policy are fully protected.

3. Recommends Price and Trade policies, specifically

- (1) Prohibit governmental authorities from promoting national tobacco sales and exports, interfering with efforts by international or foreign health authorities to regulate tobacco, and seeking to weaken existing tobacco control laws in any country
- (2) Enforce international harmonization of tobacco prices and taxes at high levels and use of the resulting revenue for financing tobacco control measures, including treatment of nicotine addicted persons and development of economic alternatives to tobacco growing and manufacturing
- (3) Exclude tobacco from the World Trade Organization free trade agreements, in order to allow countries to regulate multinational tobacco companies without fear of sanctions for unfair trade practices
- (4) Introduce and enforce safeguards against international tobacco smuggling through a system of export permits, improved record keeping and reporting of tobacco production and sales, and strict penalties
- (5) End duty-free sales of tobacco
- (6) Prohibit or strictly limit new investments by transnational tobacco companies

4. Recommends Financing of Health Education, Smoking Prevention and Treatment of Nicotine Addiction, specifically by

- (1) Supporting the development and implementation of formal anti-tobacco education programs and campaigns, both in school and out, beginning at the pre-school level
- (2) Promoting public awareness of the hazards of tobacco use through the media
- (3) Making culturally and age-appropriate health education materials available to the public
- (4) Supporting training for all health providers (including doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, and community health workers in the prevention and treatment of tobacco dependence
- (5) Motivating employers to implement legal restrictions on tobacco use and to offer these to their employees, if legal requirements are



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- (6) Supporting the development of effective pharmacological and motivational treatment for tobacco dependence

and finally.

5. Recommends that its member Public Health Associations will help increase awareness and support for the FCTC and for WHO through two channels:

- (1). Through their membership of public health professionals, support governmental initiatives that seek to further the FCTC and to adopt effective national protocols; and
- (2). Through their contacts with the community of health professionals, mobilize them to increase national and international support for the FCTC and related national protocols.