

STATEMENT OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ALLIANCE

SIXTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

The Framework Convention Alliance (FCA) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to discussions at the Sixty-third Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, particularly on agenda item 3 (b): **Health on the United Nations post-2015 Development Agenda** and agenda item 5 (k) (ii): **Noncommunicable Diseases**.

FCA congratulates WHO Member States in the European Region for their determination to tackle noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) by adopting the Global Action Plan and the global voluntary targets on NCDs at the 66th World Health Assembly¹. Noting that the WHO European Region has one of the highest proportions of deaths attributable to tobacco – 16% of all deaths in adults over 30 years of age² – FCA wishes to reiterate its full support for the efforts of Member States and WHO to strengthen the **WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)** and its implementation.

Additional components of the NCD global architecture remain to be finalized, including an NCD Global Coordination Mechanism. FCA encourages WHO and its Member States to establish a mechanism that builds upon already existing instruments, such as the WHO FCTC.

A coordinated response to NCDs with regards to tobacco control, as set out in the NCD Global Action Plan, is meant to support and accelerate implementation of all provisions of the WHO FCTC. The FCTC Conference of the Parties (COP) is the primary global forum for discussions on tobacco control implementation and accountability. The NCD Global Coordination Mechanism should work in synergy with the WHO FCTC.

FCA would also like to draw the attention of Member States to discussions on **the post-2015 development agenda**, including new development priorities for health. Tobacco use is a major preventable cause of disease and death, and presents a threat to sustainable development. Clear and ambitious commitments are needed to reduce the number of deaths caused by tobacco. The recently adopted global target for tobacco use prevalence (30 percent relative reduction by the year 2025)³ should serve as the technical basis for a tobacco-related target in the post-2015 development agenda.

Finally, we note that according to document **EUR/RC63/18** with regards to implementation of the WHO FCTC, *Parties in the WHO European Region have identified numerous challenges, including lack of financial and/or human resources* (para 59), and therefore, FCA calls on Member States and WHO to step up resource mobilization to tackle the tobacco and NCD epidemics.

¹ WHA resolution WHA66.10 – Follow-up to the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases.

² WHO official facts and figures, see:

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/disease-prevention/tobacco/facts-and-figures>

³ WHA resolution WHA66.10