
Overview of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC)

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Learning Objectives

- **Understand what tobacco and tobacco products are**
- **Appreciate the rationale for Tobacco Control**
- **The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control**

Tobacco

- ‘Tobacco products’ means products **entirely** or **partly** made of the leaf tobacco or plant as raw material which are manufactured to be used for smoking, sucking, chewing or snuffing



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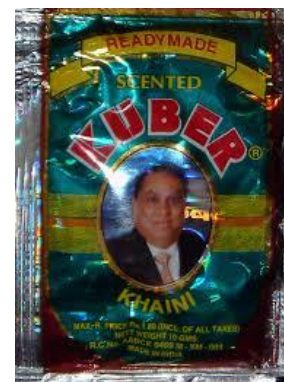
Tobacco Products

➤ Smoked Tobacco Products



Tobacco Products

Smokeless Tobacco Products



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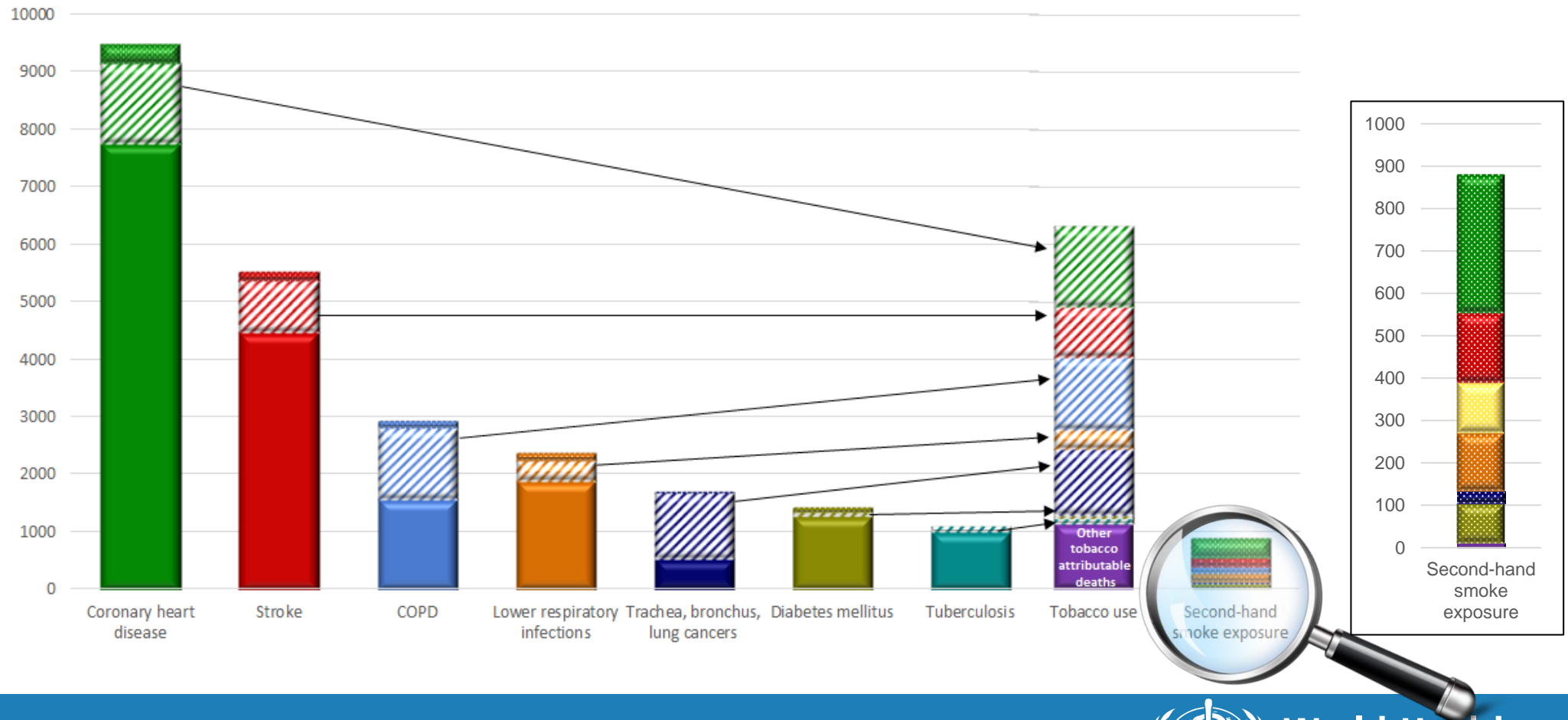
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Rationale for Tobacco Control

- Tobacco smoke contains over 7000 chemicals, 93 of which are carcinogenic
- Nicotine
- Hydrogen cyanide
- Formaldehyde
- Lead
- Arsenic
- Ammonia
- Uranium
- Benzene
- Carbon monoxide
- Nitrosamines
- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)

Tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure are risk factors for six leading causes of death in the world



Situation of tobacco use today

- 1.3 billion people use tobacco worldwide, over 80% of whom live in low- and middle-income countries
- Tobacco kills **8 million people** every year, **1.2 million** of which are due to second-hand smoke exposure



1 MILLION DEATHS
due to second-hand smoke exposure

8 MILLION DEATHS
caused by tobacco every year



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The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control



F C T C

WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

- First international treaty negotiated under the auspices of WHO
- Evidence-based treaty that reaffirms the right of all people to the highest standard of health
- Currently ratified by 182 countries

First public health international treaty negotiated under the auspices of WHO to combat the tobacco epidemic



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F C T C

WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

- Developed in response to the globalization of the **tobacco epidemic**
- Spread of tobacco epidemic is facilitated by complex factors including:
 - trade liberalization and direct foreign investment
 - global marketing,
 - transnational tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, and
 - the international movement of contraband and counterfeit products



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Objectives of the WHO FCTC



FCTC

WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

- **‘to protect’**: present and future generations from the devastating health, social, environmental and economic consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke
- **by providing**: a framework for tobacco control measures to be implemented by the Parties at the national, regional and international levels
- **in order to**: reduce continually and substantially the prevalence of tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke’ (Art 3)



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Group work



F C T C

WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

- **‘Article 6 to 14’**: demand-side reduction measures
- **Article 15-17**: supply side reduction measures
- **Article 18**: Protection of the environment
- **Article 19**: Liability
- **Articles 20-22**: Cooperation and communication
- **Article 23-26**: Institutional arrangements & financial resources



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Demand Reduction Measures

- Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke (Article 8);
- Regulation of tobacco product contents and emissions and disclosures of information on constituents and emissions (Articles 9 and 10);
- Packaging and labeling of tobacco products (Article 11);
- Education, communication, training, and public awareness (Article 12);
- Tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship (Article 13); and
- Demand-reduction measures concerning tobacco dependence and cessation (Article 14)

Supply reduction measures

- Prevention and elimination of illicit trade in tobacco products (Article 15);
- Prevention of youth access to tobacco products (Article 16);
- Promotion of economically viable alternatives for tobacco workers, growers, and, as appropriate, sellers (Article 17), with due regard for protection of the environment and the health of persons involved in tobacco cultivation and manufacture (Article 18)

Other Requirements in the WHO FCTC

- In developing and implementing these measures, the treaty requires Parties to protect public health policies for tobacco control from the commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry (Article 5.3);
- to make provisions for criminal and civil liability, including compensation where appropriate (Article 19); and
- to initiate and cooperate in research and surveillance programs and exchange scientific, technical, and legal information (Articles 20–22)

Implementation of the WHO FCTC

- It is important to keep in mind that none of the articles of the WHO FCTC, alone, will be enough to end the tobacco epidemic.
- This will be achieved only by the full implementation of the whole package of measures included in the Convention, since they act synergistically.
- This does not mean that all measures need to be implemented at the same time, but that the final goal must be the complete implementation of the Convention.

Parties' general obligation under the treaty is to enact and implement effective measures to fulfill the different treaty articles

Guidelines to the WHO FCTC

- Article 7 of the WHO FCTC requires the COP to propose guidelines for implementation of the Convention.
- The Guidelines set forth principles, definitions, and key legislative elements that the Parties agree are necessary to fulfill their obligations under the relevant FCTC articles.
- Parties should, therefore, enact the most effective and protective measures possible, consistent with their constitutional and other international legal obligations.
- The WHO FCTC is domesticated at country level through passing of National Laws

Thank You