



CS/HS/21/73

Statement at the WHO 71st Regional Committee for Africa / item 6

Head of the Secretariat of the WHO FCTC and the Protocol

24 August 2021

A very good morning to all,

Through the FCTC 2030 project, the Convention Secretariat – in partnership with WHO and UNDP – have been providing targeted support to 10 African countries.

I am also happy to report that Chad, Madagascar and Zambia now have functional national multisectoral coordination mechanisms for tobacco control.

And comprehensive tobacco control legislation has been finalized in Cabo Verde, Madagascar, Sierra Leone and Zambia, and will soon be considered by their parliaments.

Despite this progress, the WHO FCTC is still not a priority in many countries and tobacco control remains severely under-resourced.

Tobacco contributes to the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic, but tobacco control can help pandemic recovery efforts by providing extra funds to governments through taxes on tobacco.

I urge the Member States of the African Region to fully participate in the 9th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC and the 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products to be held virtually in November.

Thank you.

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