

**FCTC**WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

CSF/NV/14/25

Sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC: issues related to Article 5.3 and the guidelines for its implementation

The Convention Secretariat presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions in Geneva of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) and has the honour to refer to the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC, which will be held from 13 to 18 October 2014 in Moscow, Russian Federation.

As part of its agenda, the Conference of the Parties (COP) will consider many topics related to economics and trade: the report and draft guidelines¹ on Article 6 (*Price and tax measures to reduce the demand for tobacco*), submitted by the open-ended drafting group established by the COP at its fifth session;² the status of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products;³ and trade and investment issues relevant to implementation of the WHO FCTC.⁴

It has been brought to the attention of the Convention Secretariat that the International Tax and Investment Center (ITIC),⁵ in cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Commission, is organizing a briefing on tobacco excise taxation in Moscow on 12 October 2014, one day before the opening of the COP, and inviting tax officials from Parties and WHO Member States that are observers to the COP to participate. The Convention Secretariat would like to bring to your attention that ITIC has a number of tobacco companies as part of its board of directors and has produced many publications on several areas related to taxes and prices, investment and illicit trade in tobacco products.

In light of Article 5.3 of the Convention and the guidelines for its implementation adopted by the COP, the Convention Secretariat would like to inform the Parties and accredited observers to the Convention that this event is in no manner supported by the Convention Secretariat and cannot be considered as being in any way linked to the COP. The Ministry of Healthcare of the Russian Federation has also reassured the Secretariat that ITIC's event is in no manner supported by the Government of

¹ See document FCTC/COP/6/7, available at http://apps.who.int/gb/fctc/PDF/cop6/FCTC_COP6_7-en.pdf

² See http://who.int/fctc/guidelines/groups/art_6/en/

³ See document FCTC/COP/6/6, available at http://apps.who.int/gb/fctc/PDF/cop6/FCTC_COP6_6-en.pdf

⁴ See document FCTC/COP/6/20, available at http://apps.who.int/gb/fctc/PDF/cop6/FCTC_COP6_20-en.pdf

⁵ See <http://www.iticnet.org>

the Russian Federation. Furthermore, to the best of Secretariat's information, the event is also not supported by any Party or accredited observer to the WHO FCTC.

The Convention Secretariat would also like to take this opportunity to remind Parties of recommendations 4.9 and 8.3 of the guidelines for implementation of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC related to the composition of delegations to meetings of the COP and its subsidiary bodies. Furthermore, in line with Articles 4.2 and 4.4 (*Guiding principles*) and 5.1 (*General obligations*) of the WHO FCTC, the Secretariat would like to highlight the pertinence of involving different sectors of the government as part of their delegations, such as customs, finances, regulatory and law enforcement authorities among others.

The Convention Secretariat is available to respond to any queries related to the information contained in this note verbale and avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Parties to the WHO FCTC the assurance of its highest consideration.

GENEVA, 19 September 2014