

of the WHO FCTC followed by a general debate.

I invite you to please raise your nameplates, although we will continue with the speaker list that we drew up yesterday.

The first speaker in my list is Kazakhstan to be followed by Japan.

Kazakhstan, you have the floor.

If Kazakhstan is not ready, we shall move on to Japan.

You have the floor, Japan.

Madam President, distinguished delegates, Japan once again congratulates you, Madam President, for assuming the presidency of the WHO FCTC-COP10.

At the outset, we expressed Japan's solidarity with Ukraine.

We condemn Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

Japan is deeply concerned that the country is facing difficulties in ensuring an adequate healthcare environment, including on non-communicable diseases that we are discussing here.

Turning to our appreciation to COP10, it is profoundly significant for all of us to gather face to face here in Panama for the first time in six years.

Japan deeply appreciates Panama.

Convention Secretariat, and partners for convening this conference and warmly welcoming us.

The Panamanian hospitality is already very impressive.

Thank you very much.

Madam President, tobacco is one of the main causes of the NCD's epidemic.

We all bear the health and socioeconomic burden of tobacco use.

Due to the aftermath of COVID-19, each country's capacity to address and respond to NCDs has been affected.

COVID-19 has caused broad disruptions to health services, and therefore those living with NCDs are at increased risk of becoming severely ill.

Japan continues to make every effort to ensure providing essential health services, including prevention and treatment of NCDs, with the overall goal of achieving universal health coverage globally.

As for our recent policy development, Japan revised the Health Promotion Act to introduce regulations with penalties.

In addition, Japan has promoted various tobacco control initiatives, including the inclusion of HTPs in smoking cessation programs covered by the National Health Insurance System.

our version of universal health coverage, and raising tobacco taxes three times for cigarettes and five times for HDPs in recent years.

Madam President, we reiterate Japan's determination to ensure global implementation of the FCTC with the aim of achieving universal health coverage, thereby together promoting healthier lives globally.

I thank you, Madam President.

Thank you, Japan.

Russian Federation, you have the floor.

Distinguished Madam President, Your Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, first and foremost, at the outset, allow me to thank the Secretariat of the Convention for the report that's been presented.

This is an excellent analysis.

We have seen some overall progress in the realization of tobacco control policies.

However, one cannot help but notice

that the adoption of the global strategy did not seriously accelerate the implementation of the FCTC.

So that would require from us, on the one hand, a determination to apply the Convention, and on the other hand, coherent intersectoral policies, as well as vigilance towards new effective measures to protect public health from nicotine addiction.

This year marks the 16th anniversary since the accession of the Russian Federation to the FCTC.

Much has been done over that period of time.

For example, a systemized tobacco control legislation has been adopted in our country, and we're actively using fiscal incentives.

We're organizing medical assistance for those who have tobacco addiction, and we have awareness-raising communication campaigns.

borne fruit.

In the period since we acceded to the convention, we've seen, for example, smoking that has been halved amongst the adult population.

Our country has also joined the list of the most strictly applying tobacco control policies, according to experts.

Since the last COP, our country adopted legislation where electronic cigarettes were practically made equivalent to normal cigarettes, and we have added additional measures focusing on protecting youth for the production and sale of products.

Moreover, the Russian Federation has adopted a new concept note on the implementation of its government tobacco control policy, and we have a roadmap for implementing it.

We are looking at how to improve further requirements for packaging and labeling, fiscal incentives, and the regulation of what is in the contents of the different products.

The implementation of these measures, we are sure, will allow us to ensure a further decrease in the tobacco addiction and, of course, the diseases related to it.

In conclusion, and out of respect for the government of Panama, allow me to say a few words in Spanish.

Distinguished colleagues, allow me to thank the Government of Panama, specifically its Ministry of Health and

in particular others for the impeccable organization of this conference.

The convention is not only a statement, it is a tool which allows us to reduce consumption of nicotine as well as cut the other illnesses and deaths related to it.

The experience of our country has demonstrated that.

I cherish the hope that the conference will be a great stride forward to help us solve the most urgent and significant barriers to public health.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.

Distinguished Madam President, esteemed colleagues and participants of the conference, allow me to extend greetings to you and to, on behalf of the government and delegation of Kazakhstan, wish the WHO and the Secretariat of the FCTC, through its chair,

fruitful work and collaboration and success in fighting tobacco control.

We'd also like to thank the host country, Panama, for hosting us in this event.

We recognize the fact that the spread of tobacco use is a global health issue which has significant impacts on the health of everyone and which requires broader international cooperation to solve and the participation of all countries to have effective multilateral work.

We have joined the FCTC and we have implemented recommendations focusing on aligning them with the national legislation of our country.

Looking at tobacco use, we have improved our national legislation and we have the following measures.

For example,

We're looking at the packaging of tobacco, and we have a full ban on the sale of non-smoking and e-cigarette products.

We have also made a change to our fiscal policies in our country, increasing the excise taxes.

However, we are concerned at the fast pace of smoking, specifically amongst youth and teenagers in our country.

That's why the WHO, since 2002, for example, has seen that about 18 percent of our teens from 13 to 15, for example, have been vaping in our country.

And since 2021, the WHO has been actively fighting vaping through normative acts and regulations.

There is a proposal to fully ban vaping products and to have criminal responsibility for the sale of vaping products.

This proposal has been supported by the government of our country.

And this year, the draft law on that has been supported by the majority of the parliament of our country.

Currently, the standards are being negotiated, and we cherish the hope that it will be adopted.

we would call upon the parties of the FCTC to consider the possibility of fully banning vaping products.

Distinguished colleagues, allow me to thank once again the organizers of this conference and also express the hope that we will adhere to the principles of the FCTC to protect public health.

I wish everyone excellent health and a wonderful conference.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Thank you, Kazakhstan.

Republic of Moldova, you have the floor.

Thank you, Madam President.

Republic of Moldova commends the intense work of the Convention Secretariat on Advancing Tobacco Control.

We note the report on global progress in implementation of the WHO FCTC, appreciating the responsiveness of the parties to the new approach aggressively rolled out by the tobacco industry.

At the same time, we express our serious concern with the recently recorded increase in tobacco use in our country.

Much of this is through exploding uptake of hated tobacco products and e-cigarettes by youngsters.

This is an alarming signal to the country.

We face this challenge while the country has taken significant efforts to protect population from the harms of tobacco.

A party to FCTC, since 2009, Moldova adopted comprehensive national policies covering all MPO measures.

As well, tobacco legislation was recently amended to cover novel tobacco products.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we move forward, Moldova expressed a firm commitment to fight tobacco use and promote healthier lives.

Today, more than ever, we have the determination to reignite the fight against tobacco and protect our citizens from the harm of tobacco products.

The way to do this is through the full implementation of the WHO FCTC and the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade.

Excellencies, a driving motivation to advance tobacco control for our country is the clear EU perspective.

Moldova was granted candidate status for the EU accession in June 2022, followed by the decision of the European Council in December last year to open accession negotiations.

This success comes with additional commitments assumed by our country in the relationship with the European Union.

Government's actions to reduce tobacco use align with European directives and contribute to the realization of the ambition of the Republic of Moldova to become a European country, a nicotine and tobacco-free country.

In conclusion, Republic of Moldova highly appreciate collaborative efforts by FCTC parties supported by the WHO and Convention Secretariat to adapt proven measures to the ever-changing landscape of tobacco control.

In the spirit of the debate theme, together promoting healthier lives, we look forward to continuing working with global partnerships, regional initiatives and fellow nations, which are paramount to ensure that no country is left behind in the implementation of tobacco control.

Thank you.

Thank you, Republic of Moldova.

Armenia, you have the floor to be followed by Thailand.

Thank you, Madam President.

At the outset, Armenia would like to thank once again Panama for its hospitality as well as the Secretariat for the very well-organized COP10.

Armenia values the mandate of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and is of the view that as the Convention is entering its third decade, we need to make additional efforts to achieve the purposes of the FCTC to reaffirm the right of all people to the highest standards of health.

Indeed, the Secretariat has an important role to play here in assisting member states to achieve high standards of tobacco control for the benefit of sustainable development and healthy societies.

Ever since becoming a party to the Convention, Armenia has been keen to effectively implement the provisions of the FCTC.

Understanding that our efforts alone may not be enough to address the complex issues related to tobacco,

and we need to share the best practices, experience, but also challenges in this field.

Armenia has been keen to closely cooperate with the Secretariat in order to furnish the latter with all necessary information on the implementation of the FCTC by timely responding to its requests.

We have also been closely cooperating with other countries and states, in particular like Georgia, to improve Armenia's tobacco regulations and appreciate all efforts in this regard.

Madam President, a large segment of Armenia's population, especially the senior generation, has a significant smoking dependency.

This segment of our society is particularly vulnerable to different non-communicable diseases caused by combustible smoking, such as lung cancer, which is the most widespread type of cancer in Armenia.

Bearing this in mind, Armenia has been taking active efforts to find viable solutions for preventing the negative impact of smoking on health.

In this context, we believe that alternative methods of reducing the negative health impacts of smoking should be considered on the firm basis of scientific research and conclusions in order to take informed decisions on how to minimize the harm of smoking within that particular segment of our society.

On the other hand, Armenia is taking stringent measures to prevent the attraction of the younger generation to smoking.

Such measures include the comprehensive ban on smoking in public areas, as per the FCTC Article 8, ensuring proper packaging and labelling of tobacco products, as per the FCTC Article 11, ensuring proper health warning on the packaging and plain packaging, a total ban on tobacco advertisement, promotion and sponsorship, including a display ban at the points of retail, as per the Article 13, as well as education, public awareness and other pertinent measures.

In conclusion, Madam President, we would like to highlight that Armenia will be presenting its third Voluntary National Review of Implementation of the SDGs at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development this July.

As the health issues and Armenia's undertakings in this crucial sector will have a prominent place in the storyline of Armenia's third VNR, we look forward to reflecting upon our efforts towards the achievement of the SDG 3 and the respective Target 3A.

I thank you very much, Madam President.

Thank you, Aminia.

Delegates, please be reminded that you have three minutes to make your interventions.

Three minutes.

We have a timer projected on the screen.

I would like to invite Tanzania to take the floor to be followed by El Salvador.

Thailand before Tanzania.

Yes.

Madam President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, Thailand appoints the Secretariat in preparing the Comprehensive Global Programme Report.

We are delighted to share that Thailand has accelerated the top-level control approach to meet the obligations under the U.S.

OFCTC,

with the focus not only to protect the public health, but also to safeguard our tobacco control policy and regulation from the interference of tobacco industry and its invested interests.

In order to implement our amended Tobacco Control Law 2017 and the National Strategic Plan for Tobacco Control, we have started the National Tobacco Control Committee by involving different ministries and relevant organizations.

strengthening tobacco control division, and immunity of public health, and introducing of regulations and required by law.

Thailand was the fifth country in the world to require pictorial health warning on tobacco products.

And together with Singapore, we are the first Asian country to have implemented plain packaging for tobacco products.

Thailand has introduced a series of regulations that government agencies do not endorse, support, or form partnerships with or participate in activities of the tobacco industry described as socially responsible.

We are strengthening and supporting local governments in implementing and enforcing effective tobacco control measures, with active participation from all sectors, including media, health professionals, teachers and religious leaders, and two innovative approaches tailored to meet the specific needs and circumstances of each geographic area.

According to our monitoring and survey report, tobacco consumption has been steadily declining from 21% in 2007 to 70% in 2022.

However, we still have a long way to go in order to achieve the tobacco end-game target with the single-digit prevalence.

Moreover, we are deeply concerned with the 2021 GYTS report found the increasing prevalence of e-cigarette use among our kids.

Hence, Ministry of Public Health is working closely with relevant ministry to enforce the law banning sale of e-cigarettes, despite agency lobbying by tobacco industry ally requesting the government to rework the ban.

Let's work together to strengthen tobacco control, to reduce deaths and disability from tobacco use, to protect our young generation from all forms of nicotine addiction.

Most importantly, let's work together to safeguard deep cotton from the interference of tobacco industry, together promoting healthier lives.

Thank you.

Thank you, Thailand.

Tanzania, you have the floor to be followed by Republic of Korea.

Yes, thank you Madam Chair for the floor.

Madam Chair, the United Republic of Tanzania would like to congratulate the Convention Secretariat and all state parties for the steady progress in the implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

We also like to acknowledge and appreciate the support provided by the FCTC Secretariat to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania in the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in the country.

The support given has enabled the country to implement different activities under Article 5, 6 and 8, such as to conduct needs assessment,

investment case which has helped to develop the national tobacco control strategy of 2023 to 2027 and development of the policy brief on tobacco taxation.

Madam Chair, we have also undertaken the number of efforts to strengthen tobacco control in the country.

The government which includes building capacity at country level in tobacco taxation policy development and consequently resulted in the tax increment on tobacco products by 20% through the financial bill of 2023-2024.

This increment has increased the price of tobacco products, and we hope it will subsequently help in further reduction of the tobacco consumption in the country.

Moreover, the country has formulated the Tobacco Control Multisectorial Technical Working Group under the Prime Minister's Office, which will review and discuss progress in tobacco control in the country.

Through the team, we have initiated the process of reviewing Tobacco Control Act Cap 121 of 2003 to ensure full implementation of the WHO FCTC and its guideline in the United Republic of Tanzania.

Madam Chair, despite some efforts made by the country, we still face some challenges such as inadequate resources to finance tobacco control programs and increased availability of the novel and emerging tobacco products which are being marketed to children and youth in a regulated environment.

WE WOULD LIKE TO LOOK FORWARD IN FURTHER COLLABORATION WITH FCTC SECRETARIAT AND STATE PARTIES IN GENERAL IN ENSURING FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF FCTC IN TANZANIA.

THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.

THANK YOU, TANZANIA.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, YOU HAVE THE FLOOR.

Thank you, Madam President.

In light of this being the Republic of Korea's first intervention, on behalf of the Republic of Korea's delegation, I would like to express gratitude for the tremendous efforts of the Panamanian government and the Secretary of the Convention in facilitating this significant event.

The Republic of Korea has been actively implementing various tobacco control policies recommended by the FCTC.

In October 2023, we enacted the Tobacco Harm Control Act, which serves as the legal basis for the full implementation of Articles 9 and 10 of the Convention.

Previously, the Republic of Korea only listed eight harmful ingredients on cigarette packages, but under the new law, tobacco companies are required to submit information on the ingredients and emissions from tobacco products to the government.

and the government can make information on harmful ingredients available to the public.

Furthermore, the Republic of Korea amended the National Health Promotion Act to expand smoke-free zones around educational facilities used by children and adolescents.

In addition, at the end of 2023, we developed and distributed media guidelines to encourage the media industry to reduce the exposure of children and adolescents to tobacco and smoking scenes when creating media contents.

In addition to these new policies, the Republic of Korea continues to uphold the implementation of current tobacco regulations.

The Republic of Korea government enforces equivalent tobacco regulatory standards for heated tobacco products and cigarettes.

Additionally, e-liquid using tobacco plant as a primary component are taxed at a similar rate as cigarettes.

The government has implemented anti-smoking advertisements and campaigns nationwide to deter smoking and offer smoking cessation support services to smokers.

These efforts have resulted in a significant reduction in the adult smoking rate in Korea, dropping from 35.1% in 1998 to 17.7% in 2022, the lowest level on record.

However, emerging nicotine and tobacco products that can bypass existing tobacco regulation policies are continuously introduced and are spreading in the market.

The tobacco industry's marketing and proliferation of emerging tobacco products is a global issue that transcends borders.

Beyond the efforts of individual countries, we hope that all WHO FCTC parties will collectively address the proliferation of electronic cigarettes and emerging tobacco products.

Thank you.

Thank you, Republic of Korea.

Zimbabwe, you have the floor to be followed by Lawa People's Democratic Republic.

Thank you, Madam President, for giving us the floor and the opportunity to also speak on the global progress in the implementation of the WHO

FCTC on achieving non-communicable disease global targets on the reduction of harm from tobacco use.

Zimbabwe once again congratulates the Republic of Panama for successfully hosting the 10th conference of parties of the WHO FCTC.

I would also want to thank the head of the Convention Secretariat and her team for their standing work in making the event

the success it is.

Madam President, the Republic of Zimbabwe is committed to the implementation of the WHO-FCTC initiatives.

In this regard, Zimbabwe acknowledges the ultimate objective of protecting

present and future generations from the devastating health, social, environmental, and economic consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoker.

Zimbabwe is already implementing tobacco control measures that include controls over the selling of tobacco to persons under the ages of 18, introduction and requirements for no smoking signs, not allowing smoking in public places, including in public transport, as well as requirements of a designation of smoking areas among others.

We've also been cognizant of the challenges that is arising out of the new innovative products such as vaping.

In Zimbabwe, we are also developing and coming up with comprehensive intervention measures to try and ensure that we protect our citizens, especially the youth, so that they don't indulge in these new practices.

Furthermore, taking cognizant of the environmental issues around tobacco curing, Zimbabwe has also introduced a tobacco wood energy program targeting to contain deforestation caused by tobacco curing activities.

This program entails requiring establishment of sustainable eucalyptus plantations by all tobacco farmers.

Madam President, coming to the report on the global progress on implementing the FCTC, we note that the report by the Convention Secretariat recognizes that among tobacco growing parties, over two-thirds still do not promote viable alternatives for tobacco growers, and over nine in ten do not promote alternatives for tobacco workers or individual sellers.

Madam President, in the situations of many a developing economy highly dependent on tobacco production,

The major challenge is on the graduation to economically viable crop alternatives away from tobacco growing.

In the case of Zimbabwe, we've close to 200,000 tobacco farmers, the majority of whom are smallholder.

and whose livelihoods depend on the crop hence madam president zimbabwe appeals under its commitments towards the implementation of the who fctc provisions for greater recognition of the realities of achievement of the time frames for developing economies highly dependent on tobacco to transition to sustainable and economically viable alternatives away from tobacco.

This also takes into account processes for capacitation, skills development, capitalization, viability, as well as ready access to markets.

I submit, Madam President.

I thank you.

Thank you, Zimbabwe.

Now, People's Democratic Republic, you have the floor, to be followed by El Salvador.

Thank you, Madam President.

The delegation from the Laos People's Democracy Group will congratulate the Convention Secretariat on your detailed and enlightening report on global progress in implementation of the WHO FCTC.

Lao PDR has reaffirmed our commitment to fully implement the WHO FCTC by amending our law tobacco control which was passed by the National Assembly in December 2021.

Our law was amended with stronger and more comprehensive tobacco control measures to protect and promote the health of our people.

Crucially, the amended law including provision to protect our people, health policy and tobacco control duty and activity against on-farm interference from tobacco industry.

thereby increasing compliance with the WHO FCTC Article 5.3 and its guidelines.

Now PDR is currently developing regulations to move for political health warnings that cover 75% of tobacco product packaging to standardized packaging by the end of 2024.

Despite this achievement, progress with the implementation of Actico 6, increasing tobacco tax and price has been the most challenging measure to implement due to intensive and persistent industry interference.

life with the tobacco and related industries have continued to heavily promote and market electronic cigarettes, especially to young people using enticing flowers and

misleading messaging, our government has prioritized a goal to protect our children from nicotine addiction by banning the sale of e-cigarettes, health tobacco products, and shisha since 2021.

However,

illegal in-person and online sell low cost option and harming flower have contributed to a high prevalence of e-smoking among young people.

Lao PDR please to work across sector to protect and strongly enforce our improved tobacco control policy and measure and put a stop a new sources

addiction among young people thank you to the chair thank you lao people's democratic republic el salvador you have the floor to be followed by kenya

Thank you very much, Madam President, Excellencies, distinguished participants.

A very good morning to all of you.

We would like to greet the delegation of Panama, presided by the Minister of Health, Mr. Sucre, and thank them for the warm hospitality here in Panama.

We also would like to greet Madam

Adriana Blanco, head of the executive secretariat, and her team and the Panamanian authorities for everything they did to prepare today's meeting, this meeting.

As a country, we are pleased to participate in this conference of the parties under the motto Together Promoting Healthier Lives, which is all the more important now because this is the first time that we as parties are meeting in person, and this has been since the pandemic.

As a state party to the convention, El Salvador is committed to preserving the health of its population and as such we have taken huge steps in tobacco control since the first last conference.

We have taken forward implementation of our obligations under the framework convention

And we have done so with respect to regulations and also rolled out health programs under the leadership of the Minister of Health, Mr. Francisco Lavi, and the Executive Director of El Salvador Health.

We are grateful to the Secretary for its support in our implementation of some of our projects that were geared towards accelerating implementation of the WHO

TC and taking forward tobacco control in El Salvador to improve public health for our people.

It is our hope that we can continue to work hand-in-hand with the Secretary as well as with the other parties to the Framework Convention, including through South-South cooperation so that we can continue to implement and move towards furthering the aims we have.

We also have measures in place to ensure effective implementation of the convention.

At present, our legal system provides for prevention, regulation, and proper commercialization when it comes to tobacco products.

Therefore, we support the protection and preservation of health from harmful effects from tobacco, and we are safeguarding, in particular, our children and adolescents.

through bands.

Through FO Health, we have been working on programs geared towards strengthening our tobacco control measures in El Salvador and to close existing gaps when it comes to the current policies that deal with under the framework convention so that we can help

assure the health of our Salvadoran people.

One of the topics on our agenda is the issue of novel products, and here we would be grateful if the Secretariat of the FCTC and the WHO would

provide us with studies and information analyzing the impact of these products.

We believe it is necessary that we have additional detailed technical information so that we can establish a balanced position based on these analyses so that each member state can have adequate and

appropriate information to provide for provisions to deal with these products.

Also, it's important that we continue our discussion on the exchange of information between our members so that we can further make effective regulations governing these products.

We also believe in a precautionary approach to the information on tobacco for children and adolescents.

In closing, we stand ready to ensure that this will be a successful COP, and we are hoping that we can arrive at agreements that will accommodate the interests of all states' parties.

Thank you.

Thank you, El Salvador.

Kenya, you have the floor to be followed by Pakistan.

Your Excellency the President, ladies and gentlemen, Kenya is delighted to participate in this 10th session of the Conference of the Parties and express appreciation to the government of Panama.

Kenya signed and ratified the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in 2004 and domesticated it through the enactment of the Tobacco Control Act in 2007.

Since then, Kenya has made substantial progress in the implementation of tobacco control measures.

We have recorded a drop in adult male smoking prevalence from 22.6% in 2003 to 11.6% in 2022.

In 2023, Kenya received a WHO World No Tobacco Day Award for the Tobacco-Free Farms Project, which has helped almost 5,000 tobacco farmers successfully transition from tobacco farming to iron-rich beans.

Madam President, Kenya reaffirmed its commitment to the FCTC by ratifying in May 2020 the protocol on the illicit trade in tobacco products.

And in this regard, Kenya has won global recognition for the Excisable Goods Management track and trace system, which was adopted in 2013.

This system has led to the drop in illicit trade in tobacco products from 15% in 2003 to 5% in 2016.

And based on this experience and success, Kenya has offered technical assistance to various other countries.

As we embark on this 10th session, let us recommit ourselves to the principles and objectives of the FCTC

Together, we must strive to strengthen implementation mechanisms, enhance enforcement measures, and expand partnerships across sectors and borders.

Despite many achievements, challenges remain.

Tobacco use continues to be a leading cause of preventable death and diseases worldwide, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations and hindering our pursuit

of global health equity.

I have every confidence, Madam President, that our deliberations over the coming days will be marked by wisdom, vision, and unity.

May our decisions be bold, our actions be decisive, and our legacy be enduring.

I thank you.

Thank you, Kenya.

Pakistan, you have the floor, and you'll be followed by Canada.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

I have the honor to deliver this statement in my national capacity.

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Eastern Mediterranean Group.

We thank Panama for its warm hospitality in graciously hosting this COP10 meeting in Panama City.

We also commend WHO for their ongoing efforts and retrace Pakistan's support to them.

I join my colleagues in highlighting the need to regulate and control tobacco and nicotine substances that are destroying human lives.

Madam Chair, Pakistan is the fifth most populous country, and an estimated two-thirds of our country's population is under the age of 30, and we are amongst the 15 countries of the world that have a heavy burden of tobacco-related health effects accentuated by associated diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular, diabetic, and coronary respiratory diseases.

Tobacco use in Pakistan amongst adults is nearly 19.1 percent, which bears significant health costs.

Our costs attributable to all smoking-related diseases and deaths in 2019 alone were close to 2.2 billion US dollars.

Madam Chair, taxation is instrumental in reduction of consumption.

It provides a disincentive for young users to purchase tobacco, resulting in quitting and preventing youth from indulging in smoking.

We must remain cognizant of corporate interests that run at cross-purposes to the efforts of governments around the world by undermining tobacco control measures and policies through influence and lobbying.

A consensus-based approach will ensure universal tobacco control measures taking effect at national level, besides protecting vulnerable youth from the influence of global tobacco industry giants.

We also believe that a member state-driven process through joint efforts backed by bold, evidence-based outcomes from these processes will allow us to make tangible progress.

Madam Chair, Pakistan has taken a number of measures for tobacco control.

In 2023, we launched the first National Tobacco Control Strategy 2230, fulfilling obligation of Article 5.1 of the FCTC.

We have thrice increased the federal excise duty rates in just the fiscal year 22-23.

We are also taking measures to ban tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship in cinema and theater.

A dedicated quit line has also been established to provide support to those seeking help for tobacco cessation.

We have also proposed the development of a track and trace system.

Madam Chair,

There has been a low level of implementation by parties of Articles 9 and 10.

As member states have different level of expertise and infrastructure for a universal solution, a working group consisting of member states can ensure that state parties develop practical recommendations based on best practices to overcome these challenges.

On new and emerging products, there is a divided opinion and scientific evidence remains inconclusive, leaving gaps and uncertainties requiring further research.

On our part, we have regulated the HTPs to ensure that tobacco manufacturers and importers selling HTPs in Pakistan disclose the known health risks associated with their use.

We support any decision that proposes for tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship to be heavily regulated, monitored and restricted.

Pakistan stands ready to support the work of this conference for a successful outcome.

I thank you, Madam Chair.

Thank you, Pakistan.

Canada, please take the floor to be followed by Guatemala.

Good morning colleagues, distinguished delegates.

Canada acknowledges that the tobacco control landscape has greatly evolved since the FCTC entered into force almost two decades ago.

We recognize this has created new challenges for parties.

Now is an opportune time to reflect on what we have achieved and to identify measures that could strengthen our ability to limit the global burden of tobacco.

Canada believes that the adoption of our draft decision, forward-looking tobacco control measures in relation to Article 2.1 would serve as a starting point for parties to have renewed discussions on tobacco control.

This would reinvigorate a collective, stronger response to the global tobacco epidemic.

Since COP 9, Canada has continued to strengthen tobacco control efforts in order to meet our target of less than 5% tobacco use by 2035, including new tobacco labelling regulations that make us fully compliant with Article 11 of the FCTC.

In addition to requiring health warnings for all tobacco products, Canada is the first country to require health warnings on individual cigarettes.

Canada is also working towards requiring tobacco manufacturers to contribute to the federal public health investments in tobacco control.

Canada looks forward to a successful and productive COP and welcomes the opportunity to collaborate on a number of matters which aim to strengthen the FCTC implementation both domestically and internationally.

Thank you, Madam President.

Thank you, Canada.

Guatemala, please take the floor and you'll be followed by Peru.

Thank you, Madam President.

Our country would like to raise a point of order very briefly with respect to how the consensus was reached in yesterday's discussion.

Article 50.2 says that as far as possible, we should do everything to reach a consensus.

But it is clear that in this context, consensus means that there is no party that objects to that decision.

If there is an objection, then there would be no agreement.

The concept of agreement

is reiterated in the third paragraph that provides that if we exhaust all the possibilities of arriving at a consensus agreement, then we will proceed to a vote.

So I believe the majority was taken as a consensus, and this is in variance with the definition of consensus in Article 50.

We want to make it clear that consensus under Article 50 means that there is no objection from any of the parties.

If there is an objection,

that we have to continue to discuss the proposal or then we should move to a vote.

If you think that a majority constitutes a consensus, this is a variance with the rules of procedure and to public international law.

As Guatemala, we would call on the Secretary to abide by the rules of procedure and respect all the decisions to be taken throughout this COP.

Thank you.

Thank you, Guatemala.

Guatemala, this is to remind you that this issue was discussed yesterday and a decision was taken by consensus and the agenda item was closed.

So we are now on agenda item five on the global progress in implementation of the WHO FCTC, which is followed by a debate.

So we are not going back to the agenda item that was closed.

Thank you.

Your point was noted yesterday and it is recorded in the report.

Thank you.

Shall we move on, distinguished delegates, to the next speaker, which is Peru, to be followed by Congo, which will deliver a regional statement on behalf of the Afro region.

Peru, you have the floor.

Thank you very much, Madam President, and good morning to all colleagues in attendance.

I wanted to come back to item five of the agenda.

Allow me on behalf of Peru to reiterate our gratitude to Panama for their hospitality and the efforts made to ensure that we could convene here at the 10th session of the Conference of Parties of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

our delegation also greets the distinguished members of the bureau and the executive secretariat of the fctc led by dr adriana blanco marquis so peru is here at cop 10 the first in-person meetings since the pandemic and we

We are representing all branches of our society and civil society which reflects the coordinated commitment of Peru which is broad-ranging in tobacco control and related products and all of this is to promote public health.

top 10 is for us an effort to come together and bring together all states parties to the former convention and to make sure that we are united in purpose to tackle the smoking epidemic and at the same time

We note that this is undermining the health of persons and even ultimately affecting the environment and it brings with it serious economic consequences which has to be borne by us and so we have to reduce demand for tobacco and we have to raise awareness of the harmful effects of tobacco.

While we were focusing on the COVID pandemic, there were other health problems that required attention in our country and the cross-cutting effects of the El Niño environmental effect.

But this should not prevent various national sectors, including civil society,

You should not prevent them from failing, from working

on the obligations under the Framework Convention with the same level of commitment that we undertook 20 years ago.

And so it is that I must announce that under the leadership of our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the valuable support of the Ministry of Health, Peru is close to completing its national adjustment of our revolution.

to accommodate the terms of the protocol.

It is such a high interest on our part to fully implement the convention that

We will be participating as an observer in the MOP next week.

We are firm in recognizing the need for the FCTC and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to remain closely linked, and so we are always focusing on our work using a cross-cutting approach.

We are looking forward to the participation of 14 national entities, and this has enabled us to continue our implementation of the general law on the prevention of the risks of tobacco consumption that were set out in 2006.

And this includes a series of measures to warn people of the health risks and

to provide smoke-free indoor spaces and to step up our education to make sure that our young people do not begin smoking.

I also wanted to share with you that Peru is firmly committed to making sure that we set up a national commission for tobacco control, and this is part of our implementation of our comprehensive multisectoral strategy.

Ladies and gentlemen, Peru is of the view that we must also cover novel and emerging tobacco products and e-cigarettes that can also affect the health of persons.

Thank you very much, Madam President.

Thank you.

Congo, you have the floor to be followed by St.

Kitts and Nevis.

Thank you very much, Madam President.

Congo is speaking on behalf of the Afro region for progress that has been made in agenda item five of the agenda.

So progress has been made.

if I might cite some of the notable points, the adoption of a system for seizure, which also includes fiscal incentives and allows the reduction of the demand for tobacco.

Also, we've adopted a policy on

integration of tobacco control into our policies on NCDs.

Besides this progress that's been made in the Afro region, there is still much to be done.

Specifically, I would mention here

the implementation of a fiscal policy which would address the financial instability and tobacco products.

Also, looking at dependency and addiction to tobacco and helping people stop being addicted.

We've also seen an increase in emerging tobacco products.

For example,

We haven't seen any improvement in terms of the demand for these products.

International assistance is something that is not needed and is an issue at the level of the entire region.

Amongst our priorities, if I might make mention of a few here, we mentioned the implementation of measures under Article 14 and then 6 and 8, Article 6 and 8, with regard to international cooperation, as is something that I've already mentioned here.

Also, the review of the implementation of the Framework Convention.

This is something that has been proposed to look at the implementation.

And this can be found in FCTC 10-14.

Also, there's a new indicator updated to look at the deficits in global funding for the framework convention.

Madam President, the Afro region has noted the report on global progress.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.

St.

Kitts and Nevis, you have the floor, to be followed by Turkiye.

Thank you, Madam President.

St.

Kitts and Nevis is very pleased to be part of the global tobacco control community.

aiming at protecting present and future generations from the devastating health, social, environmental, and economic consequences of tobacco consumption.

And so we are very pleased to be part of this debate today.

At our own domestic situation, we have seen
a reduction in smoking prevalence to below 9%.

But despite this, globally, we have seen the proliferation of a number of products.

One of the concerns that we have really is that when dealing with novel and emerging tobacco and nicotine products

that are used commonly by the tobacco industry.

There is the misuse of the so-called harm production or reduced risk.

And this is claiming to attract

both smokers and non-smokers to its new products by saying that these novel products expose their users to less harmful constituents, which eventually lead to the renormalization of smoking.

And so although the convention

that guides us itself describes tobacco control as a range of supply, demand, and harm reduction strategies.

The public health community must define these terms in a more detailed manner.

It is important to note, however,

that the proven concept of harm reduction plays a significant role in other areas of public health, such as sexually transmitted infections, HIV AIDS, drug and alcohol addiction, and in fact, air pollution.

And I want to associate myself personally

with this because of my earlier experience as being the spokesman for the Caribbean region on matters of health inclusive of HIV AIDS pandemic.

Therefore, the tobacco control community should not reject the idea of harm reduction per se.

but we should learn from the best practices of proven public health oriented measures while preventing the tobacco industry from hijacking that important term.

Having above in mind, we would like to present a proposal

proposal to establish in line of the Article 5.3 of the Convention.

Please confine yourself to the agenda.

Right.

And we are proposing a working group which I intend to spend more time.

It is not the time for a proposal.

Please give us an update on your global progress.

Right.

And the update is that I shall deliver a proposal which will assist us in moving forward.

Not now, St.

Kitts.

Not now, not now at all.

Not now.

Thank you.

Not now.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Thank you, St.

Kitts.

At the outset, we would like to thank Panama authorities for their warm hospitality.

Tobacco control has been continued to be among the most important public health topics, having an outstanding political support in Turkey, resulting in completing successfully all empowered measures with Brazil, Mauritius, and the Netherlands.

Activities in line with the FCTC, like comprehensive smoke-free zone implementation, public awareness and media campaign, advertisement bans, quitline which is operational 74 hours 7 days, have been continued after COP 8.

Besides the above activities, some other new ones are as the following.

In line with the FCTC Article 20, Turkey has successfully implemented the fifth GYTS and fifth GATS bi-dimension period.

Another important development is the use of plain package with the plain package application the size of the area where pictorial and text warnings or messages in Turkish placed on tobacco packages and coir bottles has been increased from 65 to 85 percent.

Madam President, It is well known that reporting and exchange of information in line with the FCTC 21st is foremost important.

Therefore, Turkey is among the parties that submit comprehensive FCTC and protocol implementation reports routinely.

The electronic nicotine delivery system, so-called ENDS, most particularly electronic cigarettes and novel tobacco products like alcohols, having huge adverse health effects to people, was making difficult the implementation of the FCTC.

Therefore, the import of all kinds of tobacco products, whether they contain nicotine or not, and electronic devices, parts, spare parts, and solutions used in their consumption is prohibited since 2021.

The combination of the import ban and the production ban have effectively banned the sale of ants in Turkey.

Moreover, in line with the FCTC Article 9 and 10, on the basis of the partial guidelines, Turkey has also regulated specific additives in tobacco products to increase their attractiveness, particularly to adolescents.

Turkey has also banned mental cigarettes and hand-rolled tobacco at the manufacturer levels.

The ban applies to any quantity of mental, including low levels in cigarettes, that are not marketed as mental cigarettes.

Last but not least, another important control activity is the offering of smoking cessation services.

The cost of pharmaceutical products are fully covered by government in cessation clinics, according to the approval of physician.

Thank you very much, Madam President.

Thank you, Takia.

Angola, you have the floor to be followed by Comoros.

Angola, you have the floor.

If Angola is not ready, Comoros, please take the floor.

Comoros, if you're not ready, Columbia, please take the floor.

Thank you, Madam President, distinguished delegates.

Colombia is committed to the effective implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

This is a priority for us as we seek to combat the tobacco epidemic.

Taking into account that this is one of the main risk factors when it comes to some NCDs, which may lead to greater chances of serious symptoms and severe harm during the, which increased harm during the pandemic.

We really wish to see state parties continue to fully implement their obligations under the FCTC, especially Article 18, as was stated by the delegation of Brazil and Madam Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environmental Programme.

For this reason, Colombia has been working inter-institutionally in the recent years to consolidate coordinated work in this field.

We have set up a forum for dialogue to create synergies among the various state agencies that will facilitate effective implementation of our commitments under the convention and which will lead to the establishment of a national monitoring surveillance entity bringing together all institutions.

Further to this, we wish to sincerely thank the Secretariat of the Framework Convention for 23, which is geared towards implementation of the Convention to fulfill the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

We also are grateful to the delegation of Brazil for its initiative at South-South Cooperation in this field, which we support.

This project was hugely useful for our institutional effort to implement the convention.

In closing, we wish to highlight that we have made progress on formalizing the coordination mechanism for our intersectoral work on tobacco control, which we hope will be formalized in coming days.

Thank you.

Thank you, Columbia.

Angola, are you ready to take the floor?

Comoros?

Nigeria, you have the floor.

To be followed by Chile.

Thank you, Madam President.

Please permit me to stand on the existing protocol.

Nigeria is delighted to highlight our contribution to the global progress in implementation of the WHO FCTC.

With respect to FCTC Articles 5.1 and 2, Nigeria has National Tobacco Control Act and National Tobacco Control Regulations 2019, and we have also ratified the protocol to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco.

To strengthen tobacco control coordination mechanism, Nigeria created a national tobacco control unit and a multi-sectoral committee known as National Tobacco Control Committee, as well as an enforcement team.

Nigeria has further developed

national tobacco control strategic plan and communication plan as well as an enforcement plan.

These three documents will soon be launched and widely disseminated for other parties to learn from Nigeria.

Consistent with articles 5.3, 19 and 20, Nigeria is regularly building capacity of public officers on the prevention of tobacco industry interference.

And in collaboration with civil society organizations,

Nigeria is monitoring tobacco industry activities and instituting appropriate measures to deal with any criminal and civil liability.

Nigeria has also conducted global adult tobacco survey in 2012 and we are due for second round.

Any moment we shall start collecting data for the second round.

For research, surveillance and exchange monitoring activities, that will be dealt with in the second round of the survey.

Under the WHO FCTC Articles 12, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11, Nigeria is raising national awareness on the provisions of the National Tobacco Control Act and regulation.

We have also raised our taxes to make tobacco products less affordable in the interest of public health.

Nigeria is also sensitizing owners and managers of public places on the promotion of smoke-free environment and we are actively in six states implementing this and we have also developed Nigeria industrial standard for tobacco products and we are reviewing them

And also, Nigeria is also working to also develop NIS, that's the Nigeria Industrial Standard, for new products, including nicotine.

such as heated tobacco products and e-cigarettes.

And this is part of the ongoing efforts to regulate, control and monitor the sale of new tobacco products in our markets.

Nigeria in time past participated as a member of member working group on WHO FCTC Article 9 and 10 and we are committed to continue to do so.

Nigeria is implementing health warning on the packages of tobacco product pictorially, and we are in our second rotation now.

Madam Chair, in accordance with Article 13, Nigeria has a technical working group on tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship.

This technical working group is actively- You have run out of time, Nigeria.

Is actively sensitizing teams.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

And in conclusion, we shall continue to implement all the FCTC articles.

Thank you, Nigeria.

Chile, you have the floor.

You will be followed by Estonia.

Estonia, you have the floor.

If Chile and Estonia are not ready, you have the floor to be followed by Ethiopia.

Please note distinguished delegates that were following the list that was compiled yesterday.

So if you raised your flag this morning, please be patient.

We will get to your country or your region.

Thank you.

Eswatini?

If Eswatini is not ready, Ethiopia, you have the floor.

Ecuador?

Thank you very much, Madam President.

Good day, everyone.

We would like to specifically thank our distinguished host country who has hosted us for this COP10.

In Ecuador, we've seen progress and challenges, where we can see these laid out in the document on Agenda Item 5 on progress.

This reflects the collected efforts that have been made by the different states' parties.

highlights the need to redouble efforts in order to be able to fight the scourge of tobacco addiction and its devastating impact on public health worldwide.

We, as a state party, are continuing to move forward in the implementation of the Framework Convention thanks to an organic law which addresses tobacco control.

It was published in 2011 and 2012.

We recognize with pride that our country is one of the 70 countries, 70% of the countries in the Americas region which has implemented Article 8 of the Fair Work Convention with regard to universal protection against smoke, from smoking.

Our region has one of the highest levels of this exposure to secondhand smoke in the world.

So there are challenges which continue to exist in the implementation of the Framework Convention.

For example, this because of the stubbornness of the tobacco lobby.

We continue to see emerging products and also the impact of COVID-19 on our citizens.

In light of this, Ecuador notes the report.

Thank you very much, Madam President.

Thank you, Ecuador.

Malawi, you have the floor.

Thank you, Madam President, for organizing Malawi to make its statement.

Malawi would like to join the list.

the Governmental Republic of Panama for hosting this very important event and also extend its gratitude to the Secretary of the

CTC for its work in preparing for the conference.

Malawi is delighted to participate in the COP10 as a new entrant, having acceded to the treaty in August in 2023.

On behalf of the government of the Republic of Malawi, we state Malawi's commitment to the public health objective of the treaty

and proudly report that our country has already initiated the process of aligning its legal framework for the regulation of the tobacco industry, as well as its alignment to the treaty agenda's objectives.

And in short, we are in the process of domestication of the framework, and it's going on well.

In this regard, the country would like also to register its commitment to work with the international community

to share the best regulatory tobacco control policies, practices across parties and regions and promote policy that protects the present and the future generations from the devastating effect of tobacco and its products on health, socioeconomic and environmental dimensions.

For Malawi, it is important to ensure that the policy recommendations

are balanced, evidence-based, in coherence with the national policies and rules, and that their social and economic implications are duly considered.

We are looking forward to the productive discussions and would like to wish the co-presidency and the Secretariat and the Government of Panama and all

members a quite successful conference.

And above all, we also want to indicate that as a new member of the Convention, we are happy to learn from the experienced parties on how to implement the framework agenda and its objectives.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, I would like also just to legislate my position particularly on the issue of the importance of discussing environmental issues.

However, we are on the view that we may need to take time and gather evidence as well as in-country data to inform country positions, in which case we propose the need to be referred to COP11.

Thank you very much for your attention.

We submit.

Thank you, Malawi.

Australia, you have the floor to be followed by Gabon.

Thank you, Madam President.

Excellencies, Honourable Ministers, Madam President, Dr Blanco-Marquiso and distinguished delegates, Australia is pleased to be here in Panama for the first in-person session of the COP since 2018.

We would like to acknowledge Panama's commitment to hosting this important summit so that we can all come together to renew our collective efforts to address the harms associated with tobacco use.

Madam President, Australia has a proud and hard-fought history of tobacco control.

We have seen a long-term decline in smoking prevalence over many years and we are pleased that our tobacco control measures have achieved smoking rates at unprecedented lows.

However, there is more to be done to reduce our national daily smoking rates to the ambitious targets of 10% or less by 2025 and 5% or less by 2030.

Our latest national tobacco strategy also includes a target to reduce daily smoking prevalence among First Nations Australians to 27% or less by 2030, recognising that smoking rates among First Nations people remain unacceptably high.

Our strategy also recognises the relationship between tobacco control and Australia's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Many of the SDGs have a direct or indirect relation to tobacco control and further reducing tobacco use will play a major role in global efforts to achieve the SDG target to reduce premature deaths from non-communicable diseases by one third by 2030.

NCDs represent the single largest cause of premature mortality in the Pacific Islands and remain a key focus of Australia's continuing development investments in the health of our region.

Madam President, the theme of together promoting healthier lives for COP10 resonates with Australia and our current focus on tobacco reform.

We are pleased to share that since the introduction of Australia's historic plain packaging laws more than 10 years ago, we are now progressing our next wave of tobacco control reforms.

new and substantial legislation passed the Australian Parliament on 7 December 2023.

Alongside this, we are working to develop new public health campaigns, provide further support for cessation and harm prevention, and progress new tobacco excise measures.

All of our activities strongly align with the FCTC and recognise that a comprehensive evidence-based approach to tobacco control comprising supply, demand and genuine harm reduction strategies is the most effective.

Support and advice from other member parties has been extremely beneficial in developing Australia's measures and we want to acknowledge the value in international partnerships and the collaboration that the FCTC and the COP facilitates.

The increasing prevalence and marketing of electronic cigarettes poses a threat to our tobacco control efforts, in particular for young people.

To address this risk, the Australian Government has committed to introducing stronger controls to ensure they are only available under medical supervision.

Madam President, Australia notes that the implementation of the FCTC anticipated through uptake of the global strategy continues.

We must accelerate efforts to rebuild momentum on tobacco control and ensure our hard-won gains on this important public health matter are not lost.

We remain committed to these efforts domestically as well as supporting our neighbours to address NCD prevention and control measures

including the impacts of tobacco.

In closing, Australia wishes to reaffirm our commitment to the FCTC, recognising this important forum.

I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution of our non-government colleagues nationally and internationally, the continuous efforts of the Convention Secretariat for their coordination and ongoing support of parties that makes this possible.

I assure you of Australia's support in this crucial endeavour.

Thank you.

Gabon to be followed by Brazil.

You have the floor, Gabon.

Thank you very much, Madam President, for giving me the floor.

Madam President, Gabon fully subscribes to the statement that has been made by the Republic of Congo on behalf of the Afro-Region and is pleased to be able to take the floor during this session to share some thoughts which has been hosted with success by Panama.

We would like to share with you in a few words some of the progress that we have made in the implementation of the Framework Convention since its ratification in February of 2009.

This progress has been made despite the considerable interference from the tobacco industry which keeps coming up with new ways to thwart the planned actions that we have in fighting tobacco in Gabon.

Generally speaking, my country has been able to improve its legal and regulatory framework in tobacco control thanks to the promulgation of a new law

which creates measures to help us fight tobacco use.

And there were also five new decrees on the implementation of the different branches of that policy.

First of all, the establishment of a national committee.

Second of all, banning smoking in public places.

Thirdly, graphic health warnings.

Fourthly, awareness raising as well as sponsoring and protection of individuals.

And fifthly, information and awareness raising on the negative effects of tobacco addiction in all of its formats.

This focus specifically on young people and adolescents.

Over the last three years, the celebration of the World No Tobacco Day has been preceded by a number of targeted activities as part of a tobacco-free month.

There are different administrations of my country which participate in this day and this month as part of their tobacco control efforts.

The difficulties that have emerged in the establishment of a national committee, which was supposed to be the national focus point as envisaged by our law, were able to be addressed by the establishment of a technical working group

which is multi-sectoral in nature and which involves all of the parts of the administration necessary, also has representatives of civil society and the WHO.

This structure is currently moving forward in tobacco control policies and a number of its members are actually present here in the COF.

We also therefore have a focal point for our framework convention.

in the delegation.

The delegation has other individuals representing customs, fiscal policy, foreign affairs, and trade.

Therefore, this is an important step forward in protecting our youth and our population against the global scourge of tobacco use.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

I would like to make mine the acknowledgments of previous speakers today and yesterday.

Initially, on behalf of the Brazilian delegation, I convey my country's sincere appreciation to the Government of Panama for its unwavering commitment to hosting this event.

I extend my compliments to the Convention Secretariat for its efficient coordination in intersectional work, particularly for providing invaluable support to working groups and expert groups.

I also express gratitude

for their significant contribution.

In the Group of Americas, regional discussions were initiated last October during pre-COP10 meetings in Brasilia, co-organized by Brazil and Canada.

Brazil is pleased to take note of the 2023 Global Progress Report on the implementation of the WHO FCTC.

I must highlight the work of the National Commission for the Implementation of the WHO-FCTC and its protocols.

Key priorities in this area include a wide range of initiatives.

First, I would like to mention the establishment of a subcommittee dedicated exclusively to the implementation of the protocol.

Secondly, Brazil prioritizes strict fiscal policies to ensure that there is a high incidence of taxes on tobacco.

In this regard, the new tax reform approved by National Congress creates a unique opportunity for tobacco control.

Thirdly, Brazil is undergoing a process of public consultation in order to define if the current ban on sales, import, and advertisement of electronic smoking devices should continue.

Fourthly, Brazil takes due consideration to the decrease in cultivated areas in the number of families involved in tobacco production.

as a result of the reduction in the international demand for tobacco.

In this context, Brazil seeks to explore economically viable and sustainable alternatives for tobacco growers.

Fifthly, the Attorney General's Office of Brazil has filed a lawsuit against tobacco industry.

This legal procedure

would represent a milestone in the recognition of the tobacco industry's liability.

Mr. President, Mrs. President, I must also highlight that Brazil submitted a draft decision regarding the implementation of Article 18 of the FCTC, which seeks to address the environmental damage caused by tobacco growing and processing in the consumption chain of its products.

Wishing everyone fruitful endeavors, I sincerely hope that decisions taken at the COP10 will establish mechanisms to enhance collaboration among state parties.

Thank you very much.

Can you hear me, Madam?

Thank you very much, Madam President.

Given that this is the first time that the delegation of Côte d'Ivoire is taking the floor, I would like to begin on behalf of the government of Côte d'Ivoire, express our sincere appreciation to the government of Panama and to the WHO for the very warm welcome that we've received.

as different delegations participating in this COP, and also for everything that has been done to make sure that this meeting is successful.

Madam President, our delegation joins its voice to the statements of those who spoke before us to congratulate you on the excellent stewardship of this session.

In this regard, we would like to assure you of our full cooperation

in order to ensure the success of our deliberations.

Madam President, Côte d'Ivoire supports the statement that has been made by the Afro region, pronounced by Congo.

Madam President, tobacco represents a global health issue.

Given the tobacco addiction crisis, numerous measures have been taken by countries leading to this current conference.

Côte d'Ivoire has also made commitments in this process.

It has a national program for coordinating tobacco control, which is housed in the Ministry of Health.

It has a focal point who coordinates the national strategy for tobacco control in a multi-sectoral fashion involving the necessary ministries as well as civil society and other institutions where necessary.

Our country, Côte d'Ivoire, ratified the Framework Convention in 2010.

like countries who ratified it.

Cote d'Ivoire is in the implementation stage.

Madam President.

This is why numerous active actions have been done by our country.

First of all, the adoption of a 2019 law, 2019-667 of the 23rd of January, 2019, with regard to tobacco control in Cote d'Ivoire.

This law is aligned with the Fremont Convention, the FCTC.

This law, in its definition, considers emerging tobacco products.

For example, e-cigarettes, ,, warmed tobacco products, water pipes, et cetera.

And they're equivalent to other tobacco products in the definition.

Hence, they undergo the same restrictions and limitations as other tobacco products.

Moreover, an amendment will be made to laws to address
to address these new tobacco products.

Madam President, despite the difficulties, our country is making progress in tobacco control, thanks in part to this law that I've mentioned and also thanks to regulation which more
efficiently fights the stubbornness of the tobacco industry.

We reaffirm our commitment to the application of the Framework Convention, and we request the support of partners in this process.

Thank you very much, Madam President.

I thank you all.

Thank you, Cordoba.

Antigua and Babuda, to be followed by Algeria.

Thank you, Madam President.

This will be my first time I wish to join all previous speakers in commending the outstanding hospitality of our host country, Panama, and to personally congratulate you, Madam President, on your very astute management of this meeting so far.

Madam President, I note your advice to St.

Louis Nevis that a proposal for the creation of a working group be deferred, and I do wish that this be given due time and attention before the close of this meeting.

because I do believe that bringing proven experience in other areas of public health to tobacco control is very important to this global debate.

With such a construct, I will see small countries like mine in better managing our geographical space.

Please restrict yourself to the agenda item at hand.

I am seeking the agenda, Madam President.

I'm asking that due attention be given at the appropriate time to the subject matter.

It is one of global importance, and for small island states like mine, trust me, we are depending on you from the chair and this organization to show global leadership.

I thank you.

Thank you, Antigua and Pabuda.

I will now give the floor to Algeria, followed by Bolivia.

Thank you, Madam President.

Ladies and gentlemen, delegates, Algeria is taking the floor to thank the Government of Panama for hosting the 10th Conference of Parties, and we congratulate the Convention Secretariat for organizing this conference, and we would like to thank them for their efforts to provide us with the working documents.

Regarding progress made by Algeria in implementing the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, we have seen an improvement over the last few years thanks to the establishment of a coordinating framework involving other sectors outside of the health sector to implement a multisectoral national strategy based on the six Empower WHO measures.

Progress made

So, reduction in consumption of tobacco in adults thanks to a stronger anti-tobacco legislation consisting of

strengthening of our national tobacco control legislation, which led to a stronger ban on tobacco in indoor public spaces, a ban on sale of tobacco to minors, and we also stepped up our ban on advertising of tobacco products in kiosks.

information and communication to the wider population, especially our youths and adolescents, informing them of the harmful effects of tobacco.

And we set up a national New Tobacco Day every September each year.

We also created assistance units for tobacco cessation in our health units, and we came up with a guide for smokers and made sure we provided them with nicotine substitutes.

We have also been providing financing for our tobacco control by setting up a tobacco control fund, which is

supported by taxes on tobacco products, and we also increased the quota of funds earmarked for this fund.

We increased our taxes on tobacco products and activities linked to the tobacco industry.

And we've done so substantially, and we are now beyond the 21 percent threshold in terms of an increase in existing taxes.

And we also set up new taxes and imposed them on emerging products such as e-cigarettes.

We also set up an authority to regulate the tobacco market, and this involves various government sectors.

We also strengthened our monitoring of the legal framework for tobacco activities.

We also saw a 15 percent to 60 percent

We saw an increase in the proportion of health warnings from 15 to 60 percent, and we also are working on strengthening our legal framework for emerging and novel products.

Thank you for your attention.

Thank you, Algeria.

Bolivia, you have the floor.

Thank you very much, Madam President.

Many thanks to everyone in attendance today.

I believe it's a beautiful day.

The plurinational state of Bolivia came up with law 1280 to prevent and control tobacco products.

And we also adopted a law to implement the guidelines of the FCTC.

This is one of the best structured laws because it also covered the positive and negative experiences in our brother countries.

And we can highlight the following from this law.

The criminalization

The characterization of smoke-free areas, the ban on advertising and sponsorship, the sale of tobacco products within 100 meters from public areas and schools.

In June 2023, we partially regulated our law through a supreme decree and the main tenets of this was penalties for failure to comply with this law and we also set up an inter-institutional technical committee to provide surveillance of implementation of the regulations.

The Ministry of Health and Sports is now working on regulations

in this Commission and we are hoping to see the approval of measures that are yet to be approved.

We also enacted a supreme decree 5042 through our Ministry of Finance and we saw a 40% increase in the taxes leveled

levied rather on e-cigarettes and nicotine products.

There's also a commitment to implement the FCTC, and this is an abiding commitment to protect the health of present and future generations from the devastating social, economic, and environmental effects caused by smoking and exposure to tobacco smoke.

So you can count on our full commitment to continue to work for the common will of Bolivians through the adoption of measures that will enable us to take forward implementation of more effective tobacco control measures throughout the world.

Thank you.

Thank you, Bolivia.

Botswana, please take the floor, to be followed by Nepal.

Thank you, Madam President.

Since you are taking the floor for the first time, we wish to express our appreciation and congratulations to the FCTC Secretariat for organizing this conference and for the well-crafted reports.

We also wish to thank the government and the people of Panama for their warm hospitality and for hosting this conference of parties.

Madam President, Botswana has made significant strides in the implementation of tobacco control measures in line with the provisions of the FCTC framework.

Of note is the passing of the Tobacco Control Act by the Parliament of Botswana in 2021.

as well as the promotion of an empowerment and educational programs through funding various stakeholders whose mandate is aligned to fighting tobacco and tobacco products.

Through our education, communication, training, and public awareness initiatives, Ozona continues to use its tobacco levy to fund non-conventional and civil society organizations whose responsibility is mainly to provide interventions targeted at countering the promotion of tobacco use and the provision of awareness on the harmful effects of tobacco use to different levels of the communities.

The levy is currently aimed at promoting research related to fight against tobacco.

It has allocated funds for the step survey and the global youth tobacco survey.

And we look forward to the academia to get out more research to inform evidence based tobacco control interventions.

Regarding the law that was passed in 2021,

The Act includes in detail how public health will be protected from the tobacco industry, aligning with and being compliant to all the provisions of Article 5.3.

In particular, provision of packaging and labeling of tobacco products.

We are currently working on the new regulations to implement the law.

Although we anticipate a spirited fight by the tobacco industry, we nevertheless remain steadfast in effectively delivering on that assignment.

Madam President, Botswana recognizes the need to regulate novel and emerging tobacco products as they have become an increasing concern, particularly among the young people.

Finally, Madam President, Botswana knows with appreciation the report of the Secretariat and the global progress made by the parties thus far.

We look forward to working with FCTC Secretariat and other parties in the active pursuit of interventions geared towards the promotion of tobacco-free nations.

I thank you.

Thank you, Botswana.

Nepal, you have the floor to be followed by Yemen.

Madam President, head of secretariat, distinguished delegates, Nepal is pleased to attend in the COP10 meeting and delighted to deliver our government position and progress in tobacco control in this important meeting.

Government of Nepal expresses sincere thanks to WHO's State Secretary and host country, Panama, for organizing this wonderful COP10 meeting.

Madam President, Nepal is the first country in the world to implement the 90% Victory Health Warning.

Nepal has achieved the highest level of implementation in three empower measures.

So I believe Nepal has been playing a leading role in tobacco control.

Currently, we are continuously enforcing to the implementation of our comprehensive tobacco control policies by engaging whole of the government, including civil society and media.

Madam President, we are committed to protecting our people from interferences by the tobacco industry.

Madam President, we are grateful to the WHO FCTC for supporting Nepal through the FCTC Project 2030 and other initiatives.

However, we still face a few challenges, such as rolling out the tobacco control program across the three types of governments.

Taxation is one of the most important public health instruments for the tobacco control, yet Nepal still has one of the lowest rates in the Sierra region.

So we are looking forward the continuous technical support from WHO, FCTC to address this issue.

Thank you, Madam President.

Thank you, Nepal.

Yemen, you have the floor to be followed by Philippines.

Thank you, Madam President.

Allow me to begin.

with words of sincere thanks to the Panamanian government for hosting and organizing this conference.

is committed to further work towards implementation of this framework convention.

Although we were forced to oppose implementation because of the war which led to an increase in the tobacco consumption rate among our minors and youths, we

We recently began work on implementing this framework convention in 2021.

And along with the Secretariat, we conducted an assessment of the gaps when it came to implementation.

And today, we began our implementation of a tax policy leading to an increase in taxes.

And we are working with the Convention Secretariat on this.

I should also say that we established a national commission involving all tobacco control stakeholders and we would also like to ratify the protocol to eliminate the illicit trade in tobacco products.

Of course, we have several challenges that we have to face in Yemen, most of them stemming from the current war, because we are now facing many challenges, many problems because of the war, as I said.

because of security issues as well.

So we have to deal with counterfeit products and illicit trade.

And great efforts, more efforts will have to be made to tackle these challenges.

And we're hoping that as a result of this conference, we will be in a position to come away with several decisions that will help us better tackle these challenges.

Thank you, Madam President.

Thank you, Yemen.

Philippines, to be followed by Uzbekistan.

Madam Chair, if I may, I would rather allow first all parties to complete their statements because I will be raising a point of order after.

The rest of the planet.

Uzbekistan, you have the floor to be followed by Paraguay.

Good day.

Good day to you, Madam President, and distinguished delegates.

We'd like to thank Panama as the host country for the excellent hospitality and organization of this COP.

We are grateful for being able to participate.

Since our accession to the FCTC, our country which was in 2019.

My country's government has made sustained efforts geared towards ensuring that we could promote a healthy lifestyle and to engage in tobacco control and contribute to the global efforts at tobacco control.

And we have worked with international organizations on this.

And we adopted a law

This law is one of the main acts of our country which regulates e-cigarettes in our country.

Of course, smoking is banned in all public places, at work, and also in public transportation.

If we look at labeling and packaging, it should not deceive the user, and there's also strict percentages on how much of the packaging can occupy.

The import of non-smoking tobacco products is also something that's regulated since 2021.

In order to regulate tobacco products, we also have a number of rules with regards to tobacco production, for example,

One cannot on TV use openly certain tobacco products.

We in Uzbekistan have also tried to address tobacco use amongst youth and adolescents.

For example, we have 60% of our population who is youth.

60% of our population is young people, and therefore it's an important share of our general population.

So we...

believe it is very important to exchange information and have technical assistance in order to regulate tobacco products, including addressing emerging tobacco products.

What we need is to improve our legislation in Uzbekistan and to look at tobacco products and study international experience in this area and reduce smoking.

Madam President.

We have the pleasure of participating in this current event, and we look forward to exchanging information on how to control tobacco in our country.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.

Paraguay is grateful to be participating in this forum and more particularly grateful to the country organizing this event, Panama.

My country has been working on the effective implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

And we can see the reflection of this in surveys that show a drop in smokers.

and tobacco products, although there has been an increase in other products.

We have bans on smoking in indoor and outdoor public spaces, and we also have a ban on taps.

We are taking forward joint work with the various ministerial programs under the Ministry of Health so that we can help bring down the rate of NCDs related to tobacco consumption.

In addition to this, in addition rather to the

a ratification of the protocol to eliminate the illicit trade in tobacco products.

We therefore would like to uphold our commitment to continue to work towards the improvement of health of our people in Paraguay.

Thank you.

Thank you, Paraguay.

Uganda, followed by South Africa.

You have the floor, Uganda.

Thank you very much, Chair.

Uganda would like to congratulate you, Madam President, and thank the WHO and Panama for successfully hosting this 10th COP.

Uganda is party to the Convention and we have one of the most comprehensive tobacco control legislation in the region and above.

We have banned tobacco use in all indoor and outdoor public places.

workplaces and public transport, and we have raised the minority age from 18 to 21.

Most of the countries are still at 18.

We have banned flavor tobacco products and all novel products.

What makes our law very good and comprehensive is the fact that we have included articles 5.3 and to this effect we have managed to bring to order a number of public officials who have dealt with the industry in ways that are not agreeable with the law.

We have in place also a multi-sectoral mechanism that brings together different government departments and civil society to ensure the enforcement of the law.

This mechanism has helped us to build capacity across the different departments in as far as tobacco control is concerned.

We have registered a decline in tobacco use among adults from 7.6% as in from 2013 to 5.3% as of 2021.

And for the young people, it has reduced from 17.8% to 11%.

We are currently conducting a gut survey and we shall launch our report during this World No Tobacco Day in May 2024.

Our next steps are to build capacity for the labs to be able to implement articles 9 and 10 of the FCTC.

We are also in advanced stages of providing alternative livelihoods to tobacco growers in the different parts of the country.

We want to continuously monitor the industry, the tobacco industry, to deter its efforts in undermining our national response.

We would like to appreciate the WHO and all our funders and supporters who have brought us to this success.

I submit.

Thank you.

Thank you, Uganda.

South Africa, followed by Kyrgyzstan.

Thank you very much, Madam President.

South Africa, we are speaking for the first time.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Republic of Panama for their hospitality and hosting this COP10 session.

We also like to thank the FCTC Secretariat for the staling work done, and most importantly, Madam President, to congratulate you on being elected as COP10 president.

South Africa is committed to implementing the provisions of the FCTC.

We have taken legislative measures to control and regulate tobacco use in the country.

We have Tobacco Control 1993, which when we reviewed, we realized that we need to also strengthen it so that it can deal with the new product that are flat in the market all over the world, the e-cigarette and others.

The new bill will allow the regulation to introduce the pictorial health warnings, also plain packaging, will also ban point of sale and also provide 100% free smoking.

this is because currently in terms of the new in terms of the current law we have designated 25 for smoking as a smoking areas in restaurant and other public places so in terms of the new law there won't be any public space where there will be smoking it is completely smoke free madam president

There is no doubt about the harm caused by the new and emerging product.

Evidence is out there as per our academia and researchers.

So we are regulating this similar to conventional ones.

That's why South Africa introduced in 2020 and 2022 the taxes on cigarette and heated tobacco products.

Coming back to our bill, it also empowers the minister to regulate tobacco product content in line with Article 9 and 10 of the WHO FCTC.

Significantly, Madam President, South Africa aims to protect the vulnerable groups, in particular the youth, since they are the target of the tobacco industry and cigarette industry.

companies.

Our main aim is to reduce the smoking prevalence amongst adults, also to prevent the smoking initiation by the non-smoking adults and youth in particular.

So we want to have a system where gradually over a period of time we will have a smoke-free South African society.

Thank you very much, Madam President.

Thank you, South Africa.

Kyrgyzstan, you have the floor.

To be followed by the .

MS.

Distinguished President,

Distinguished Madam President, distinguished representatives of the Secretariat of the FCTC, distinguished representatives of the state parties of the FCTC, allow me first and foremost on behalf of the delegation of the Kyrgyz Republic to greet you and express our appreciation

to the government of Panama and the Secretariat for the excellent organization of this COP10 and for the very warm welcome.

The Kyrgyz Republic has ratified the FCTC in 2006 and in the same year also adopted a national law on the implementation of the FCTC in our country, which was improved in a number of different versions and envisages a number of administrative measures

and which has increased the excise taxes on tobacco products.

However, emerging tobacco products are coming to the market, and they were not included in the national law.

That's why, and with the goal of implementing the FCTC, we, on the 15th of September 2021, adopted a new version of the comprehensive law

against tobacco, which includes effective measures that are envisaged in the Convention and guiding principles to improve the different articles.

Pursuant to this new version of the law, all types of tobacco and nicotine-containing products are strictly regulated, and smoking as a term is used to address not only traditional smoking but also e-delivery systems.

And the law has become an important legislative basis.

For example, we have a number of different parts that are included.

First of all, we've included Article 5.3 of the FCTC.

We've also banned all e-cigarettes inside of buildings and at work.

and in open public spaces, for example, schools, public transport, what have you.

We've also fully banned advertisements, ads for tobacco, and sponsorship

and having any signs or public ads for tobacco in public places.

We have also banned imports of tobacco products and nicotine products.

We have also addressed the issue of water delivery systems and heated tobacco products.

Here we should mention that

there is a new version of the law that has undergone the first reading by a parliamentary committee.

We've also increased the space on packaging, which is to speak about the negative impacts of smoking.

This also applies to hookah dishes.

We have improved our awareness-raising programs and prevention programs to help people stop smoking.

And in 2016, we established a call center for people who wanted to stop smoking.

We've strengthened our education programs within the population.

And we have focused on scientific and social research as one of the important priorities helping us in this area.

Given our national standards, we're considering also an economic alternative product to tobacco.

Thank you.

I thank you for your kind attention, and I wish everyone a fruitful session at this COP10 and successful work.

I thank you very much.

Thank you, Kyrgyzstan.

Distinguished colleagues, thank you very much for the fruitful deliberations.

We shall now suspend consideration of item five, and we will resume with its consideration in the afternoon session.

We will now consider the right of reply submitted by a party, and I will therefore give the floor to the Russian Federation

which has submitted a request for a reply, for a right of reply.

Russian Federation, please take the floor.

Thank you very much, Madam President.

We thank you personally for your adherence to the professional dialogue here at the FCTC.

However, we cannot but express our dismay at the fact that some delegations have seemingly come here not to control tobacco, but rather to advance their own political interests.

The point of such toxic behavior from some countries is not only to draw out military conflicts, but also to stymie the negotiations on new threats to public health.

Behind the inappropriate statements

lays the interests of major military and tobacco corporations who are ready to pay any price in human lives for their own profits.

We must insist on the depolitization of our dialogue here and request that delegations focus on the matter at hand, tobacco control.

I thank you for your kind attention.

Thank you very much, Russian Federation, distinguished delegates.

As we now have to proceed with the election of chairpersons and vice chairpersons of committees A and B, and that this was not one of the items that we agreed to be webcast, we will now take a 10-minute break to allow for the webcasting to be switched off, and we shall resume in 10 minutes, which should be 12.45.

I hope you will be back by then.

Thank you very much.