

Aligning the WHO FCTC and the UN Treaty to End Plastic Pollution

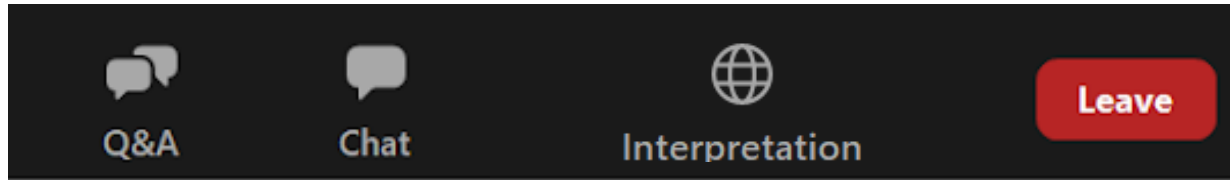
January 25, 2024



Global Center for
Good Governance
in Tobacco Control



Technology



Ask questions through the Q&A box. We will review them to answer at the end.

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Global Center for
Good Governance
in Tobacco Control



Speakers



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The Environmental Impact of Tobacco Products Relevance to the Plastics Treaty

Thomas E. Novotny MD MPH

Action on Smoking and Health

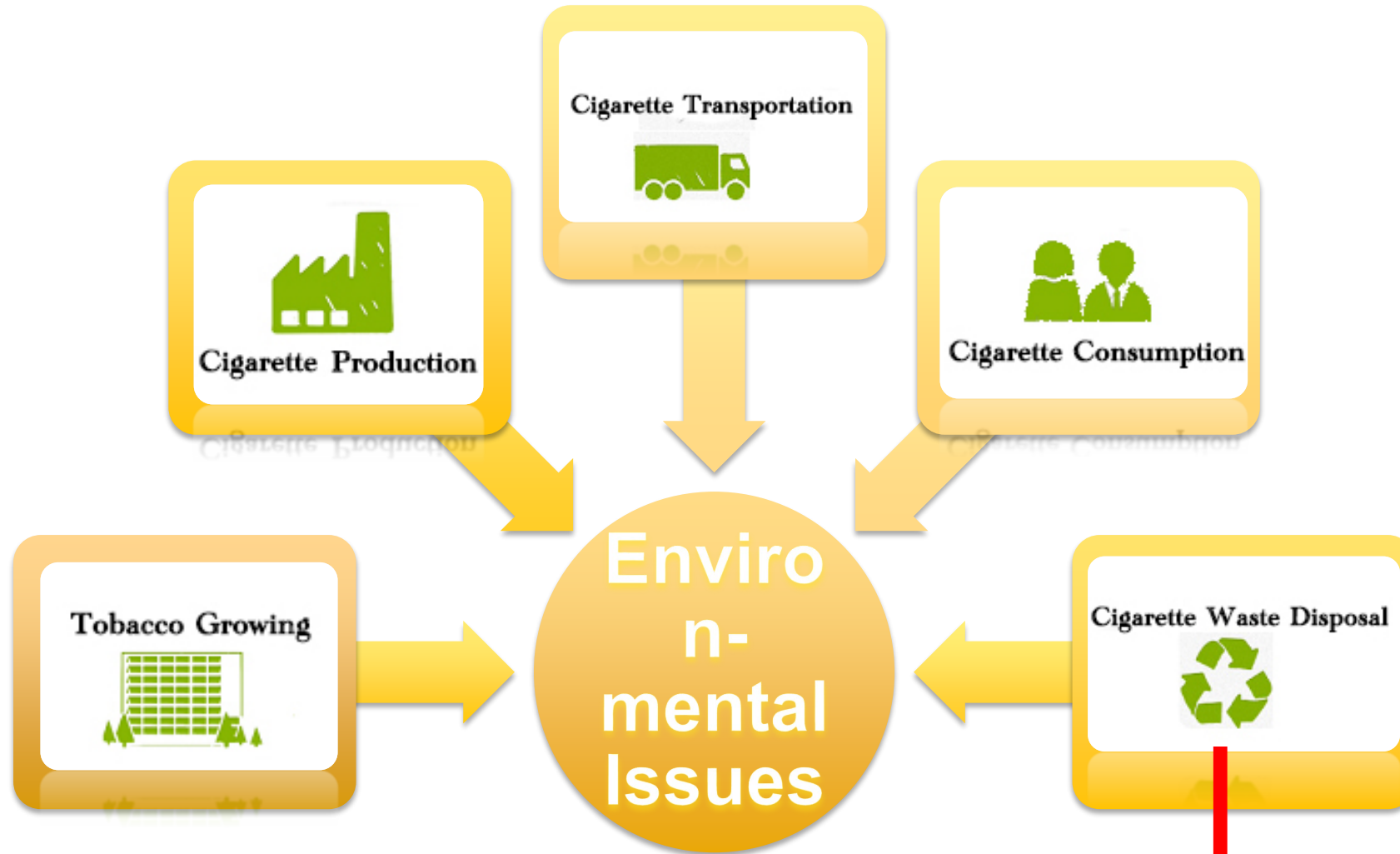
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Center for Tobacco and the Environment

January 25, 2024



Life Cycle of Tobacco Products



Relevance to Plastics Treaty

Tobacco Product Waste and the Environment



Cigarette butts: **No. 1**
littered item found on
beaches and waterways
worldwide

>30% of all beach litter

10-20% of small urban litter
(by number of items)

How much trash is that?



- 5.6 trillion cigarettes sold each year globally, 20%-65% are discarded somewhere; therefore, up to **4.5 TRILLION butts/year**
- >95% of commercial cigarettes sold are filtered, mainly with the **cellulose acetate filter** (a persistent plastic waste product)
- Weight of 20 cigarette filters is 3.4 gm;
- Estimated annual global weight of butt waste: **765,000 MT**
- Does not include packages, lighters, matches, and other tobacco products (cigars, e-cigs, and smokeless tobacco pouches).

Cellulose Acetate Filters Are a Health and Environmental Hazard

- Each filter releases ~100 microfibers/day (<0.2 mm);
- Cellulose acetate detected in urban runoff;
- Cigarette butt leachates toxic to water fleas, frogs, worms, fish, mollusks, plants;
- Changes diversity of microbial communities;
- Microplastics found in humans but unknown health effects.



Other Possible Human and Animal Health Impacts

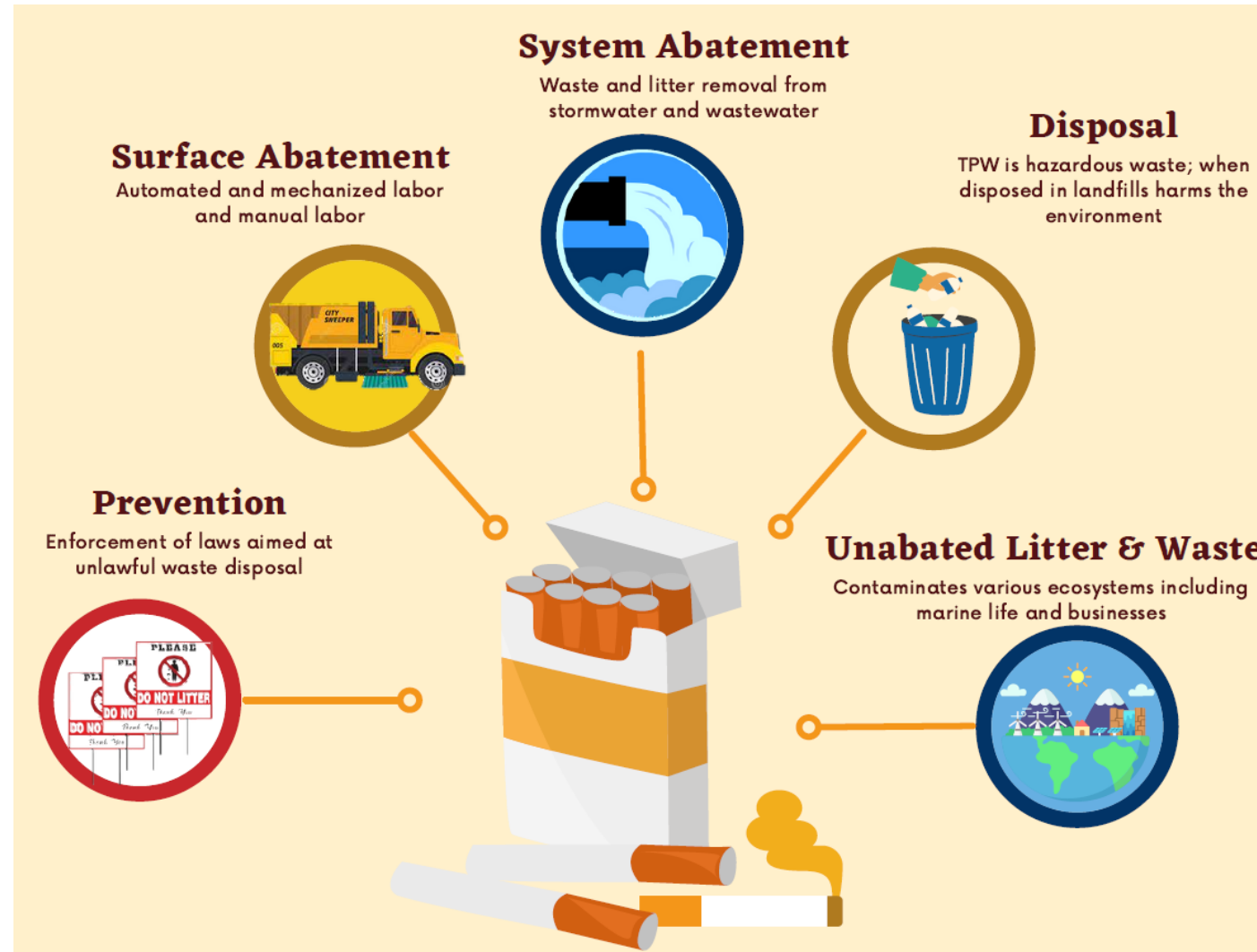
- **Sublethal effects:** Estrogenicity, tumorigenicity, and teratogenesis.
- **Bio accumulation:** in the environment and food chain.
- **Biotransformation:** Toxic chemicals (e.g., nicotine) can transform to carcinogenic tobacco specific nitrosamines (TSNAs)



Audobon Magazine, 2019



Costs of Tobacco Product Waste



Secondary costs

The Filter Fraud

- Main purpose of the cigarette filter for tobacco industry:
 - to lower the cost of manufacturing (cellulose acetate is cheaper than tobacco leaf);
 - to keep tobacco bits from entering the mouths of smokers;
 - to convince people into thinking that filtered brands were somehow 'safer' than unfiltered brands.
- 'Safer cigarette': Fraudulent marketing tool;
- Light, low tar terms now prohibited.



Banning Sale of Filters and Other 'Disposable' Tobacco Products



*Photo by Chris Register,
Clean Virginia Waterways*

- Made of cellulose acetate, a non-biodegradable plastic;
- Cigarette filters are specifically designed to accumulate particulate smoke components including toxic chemicals....that leach out into the environment;
- *Biodegradable filters* are not marketable and would increase TPW.

E-Cigarette Waste

- **Electronic Cigarettes**
 - Single use plastic products, reservoirs, components: hazardous waste;
 - Littered e-liquid reservoirs a source of nicotine and other toxic chemicals;
 - Littered electronic components may leach metals into environment (lithium).



E-cigarette waste collected
From Bay Area middle and
high school grounds (MMWR 2020)

Clear Messages and Resources



- *California Tobacco Control Program White Paper on TPW:*
<https://merg.sdsu.edu/tpwwwp/>
- Novotny TE, Hamzai L. Cellulose acetate cigarette filter is hazardous to human health. *Tob Control*;18 April 2023. doi: 10.1136/tc-2023-057925
- Zafeiridou M, et al. Cigarette smoking: an assessment of tobacco's global environmental footprint across its entire supply chain, and policy strategies to reduce it. <https://www.who.int/fctc/publications/WHO-FCTC-Enviroment-Cigarette-smoking.pdf?ua=1&ua=1>

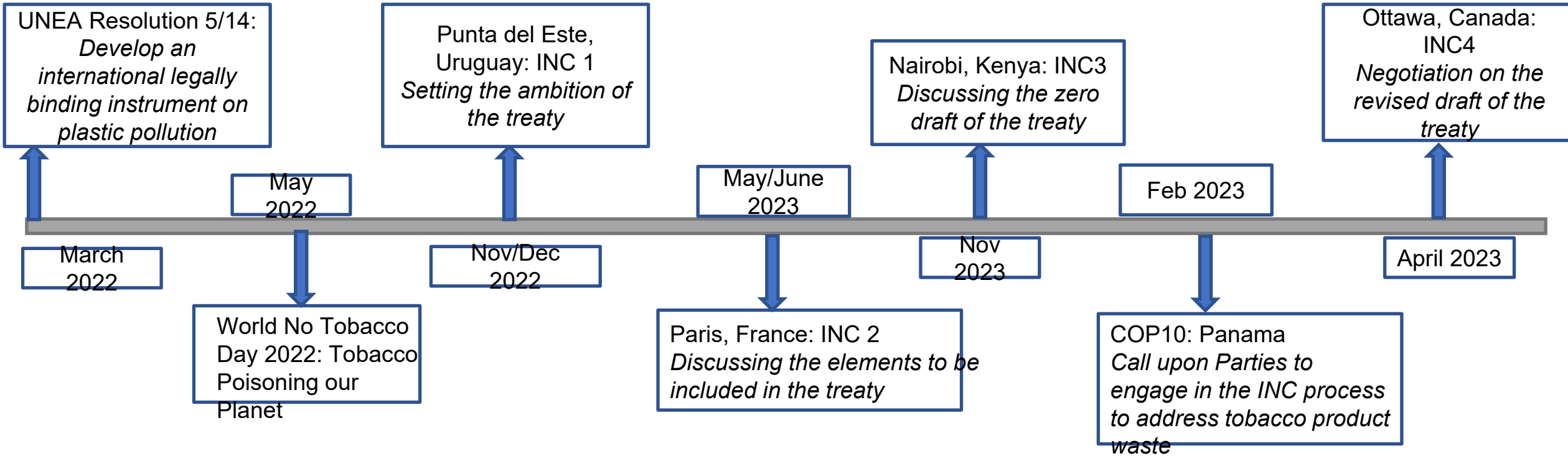
POISONING OUR PLANET

#TobaccoExposed

Throughout its lifecycle, tobacco pollutes the planet & damages the health of all people.



Timeline of events



Opportunities

Include tobacco product waste (cigarette butts and disposable electronic cigarettes) under the Annex for problematic and avoidable plastic products (with the aim to phase out and eventually ban these products).

Extended Producer Responsibility
In the phase-out period, use EPR schemes to hold the tobacco industry accountable for the tobacco product waste, including collection and disposal of these products. Important to ensure that the industry does not use this as an avenue to position itself as a 'sustainable enterprise'.

Importance of transparency and management of potential conflicts of interest with public health or environmental objectives in the development and implementation of the treaty.

Resources

WHO Report - Tobacco: Poisoning our planet

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240051287>

WHO's statement at INC1

https://resolutions.unep.org/resolutions/uploads/who_inc_statement_28.11.22_.pdf

WHO's statement at INC2

https://resolutions.unep.org/resolutions/uploads/world_health_organization_0.pdf

WHO's submission before INC3 and statement at INC3

https://resolutions.unep.org/resolutions/uploads/who_parta_28082023_1.pdf

https://resolutions.unep.org/resolutions/uploads/who_partb_28082023_1.pdf

https://resolutions.unep.org/resolutions/uploads/who_4.pdf#overlay-context=node/380/revisions/13537/view%3Fq%3Dnode/380/revisions/13537/view

Thank you
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Addressing tobacco production health and environmental impacts in the WHO FCTC provisions and decisions

Dra. Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva

Executive Secretary of the National Commission for the implementation of the WHO FCTC and Protocols
National Cancer Institute / Ministry of Health



What is at stake:

tobacco production
and consumption chain
pollute the
environment from
cradle to grave moving
it from being a human
problem to a planetary
problem

tobacco production costs the world:

- ❖ 600 million trees,
- ❖ 200 000 hectares of land
- ❖ 22 billion tons of water and
- ❖ emits 84 million tons of CO₂.

8 million human lives

Overall impact



TOBACCO
PRODUCTION CYCLE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

CULTIVATION

- **Deforestation** for the release of areas for tobacco cultivation
- **Contamination** of water and soil due to pesticide use
- Soil **degradation**
- **Threat** to biodiversity

! Tobacco production requires up to **eight times more water** than the production of tomatoes or potatoes.⁷



CURING AND CLASSIFICATION OF LEAVES

Air pollution due to wood burning for drying.



MANUFACTURING⁴

- The WHO estimates that the manufacturing of tobacco products emits over **8 million metric tons** of CO₂ equivalent every year.
- In **2015**, a single company - BAT - was responsible for emitting **876,000 metric tons** of CO₂ equivalent. It is the same volume emitted by **3 million** transatlantic flights.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS USE

- Air pollution caused by cigarette smoke, which releases thousands of compounds and chemicals.
- Cigarette smoke contains nicotine, tar, carbon monoxide, ammonia, ketones, formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, and acrolein, among other toxic, carcinogenic substances, and **greenhouse gases**.^{4,9}
- It is estimated that **80 million tons** of CO₂ are released into the environment every year. This number is equivalent to the amount of CO₂ released by **17 million** gasoline-powered cars annually.⁷

DISPOSAL

- Cigarette butts contain more than **7,000 toxic chemicals**, which can accumulate in the environment and pollute the soil and water resources, impacting aquatic life.⁴
- Each year, **4.5 trillion cigarette butts** are discarded globally. This volume is 26.5 million cubic meters, enough to cover Central Park in New York.¹⁰
- The decomposition time of cigarette filters can vary from **18 months to 10 years**. However, as the components are toxic, environmental damage is independent of this time.¹¹
- Electronic cigarettes contain batteries with lithium ions, cartridges, circuits, liquid chemicals, plastic, and metal materials. Their disposal generates toxic waste, plastic waste, and microplastics.⁴
- The disposal of cigarette butts and lit matchsticks can lead to fires.

TOBACCO
PRODUCTION CYCLE

HEALTH IMPACTS

CULTIVATION AND HARVEST

Those involved - including children, pregnant women, and the elderly - are susceptible to injuries and illnesses. **The main ones are:**

- Green Tobacco Sickness
- Acute and chronic pesticide intoxications
- Osteomuscular disorders, such as tendonitis and lower back pain
- Mental and behavioral disorders
- Cancer
- Respiratory problems
- Injuries resulting from accidents

The population near tobacco cultivation areas may experience health problems due to exposure to air, water, soil, and food contaminated with pesticides.



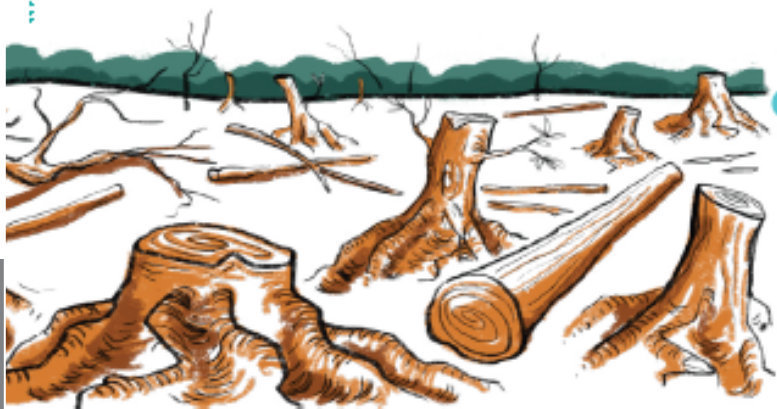
WHO FCTC
Knowledge Hub for
Articles 17 and 18



WHO FCTC
CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS SOBRE TABACO
E SAÚDE - CETSAO
SECRETARIA DE SAÚDE
GOV. DE SÃO PAULO

In Brazil

- It is estimated that Brazil incurs a cost of **US\$ 202.7 million per year** for cleaning up waste generated after the consumption of tobacco products, such as cigarette butts. These costs fall on taxpayers and not on the industry responsible for the problem.¹⁴



CURING AND CLASSIFICATION OF LEAVES⁵

- Issues arise from exposure to smoke from wood burning in curing barns and dust from dried tobacco.
- Workers face forced postures, lifting, and carrying heavy loads for task completion.
- The task involves prolonged working hours.

MANUFACTURING AND DISTRIBUTION⁶

- In 2022, **220** workplace accident reports were issued related to "industrial processing of tobacco" and "manufacture of tobacco products."
- Of these, **169** occurred in the Southern region.



Between 2010 and 2019

760 cases of *Green Tobacco Sickness* and **1,823 cases** of pesticide poisoning were reported in tobacco farming in Brazil.²

Children and adolescents accounted for **12.2%** of those affected.²

Tobacco farming is on Brazil's list of the worst forms of child labor, established in 2008.³

Of the registered cases of pesticide poisoning due to agricultural work, **11.2%** occurred in **tobacco cultivation** – the crop with the highest number of records.²



WHO FCTC
Knowledge Hub for
Articles 17 and 18



WHAT DOES ARTICLE 18 OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL (WHO FCTC) DEAL WITH?



Article 18 of the WHO FCTC states: “In carrying out their obligations under this Convention, the Parties agree to have due regard to the protection of the environment and the health of persons in relation to the environment in respect of tobacco cultivation and manufacture within their respective territories.”¹



.....new studies and market changes have increasingly raised the attention regarding additional aspects of the environmental impact of tobacco that are not linked to tobacco growing and that concerns not only tobacco-producing countries.

COP10 Panamá 2024



CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL
Tenth session
Panama City, Panama, 20–25 November 2023
Provisional agenda item 1.1

FCTC/COP/10/1 Add.1
23 October 2023

Supplementary provisional agenda

The Convention Secretariat refers to a proposal received from Brazil on 4 October 2023 for a supplementary agenda item to address “the environmental concerns associated with tobacco, in line with Article 18 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control”.

In accordance with Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the Convention Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, submits the present proposal to the COP for its consideration. Supplementary documentation accompanying the present proposal, as submitted by Brazil, is available on the restricted access website for Parties.



CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL

FCTC/COP10/P/CONF/5
Rev.1

Tenth session
Panama City, Panama, 5-10 February 2024

DRAFT DECISION: IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 18 OF THE WHO FCTC

- Proposed by Brazil, with support from Panamá and Ecuador
- Many countries sent comments and suggestions to the draft
- Strong connection with global environmental agenda:
 - ⇒ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs 2, 3, 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15)
 - ⇒ Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution
 - ⇒ United Nations Climate Change conferences

Draft decision: implementation of Article 18 of the WHO FCTC



Main aspects:

- to urge Parties to take account of the environmental impacts from cultivation, curing, production, distribution, consumption and waste disposal of tobacco products and to strengthen the implementation of FCTC Article 18;
- to invite all Parties to improve the implementation of FCTC Article 17, giving particular attention to strengthening national laws that protect the environment and the health of persons in respect of tobacco cultivation and manufacture;
- to invite Parties, under FCTC Article 19, to hold the tobacco industry accountable for the damage it causes to the environment and the adverse health effects on workers involved in the cultivation and manufacture of tobacco products, and the disposal and treatment of waste resulting from their manufacture and consumption;
- to urge Parties to align efforts to address plastic pollution with the objectives of the WHO FCTC in relation to national policies and international treaties dealing with plastics and hazardous waste;

Draft decision: implementation of Article 18 of the WHO FCTC

Main aspects:



- to urge Parties to establish measures to protect the rights of workers exposed to occupational hazards in tobacco cultivation and manufacture, as well as to implement actions to protect the rights of persons exposed to tobacco smoke in workplaces;
- to urge Parties to protect tobacco-related environmental policies from the commercial and vested interests of the tobacco industry and those working to further its interests;
- to urge Parties to strengthen bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, in particular the prohibition of corporate social responsibility or sustainability activities of the tobacco industry, especially those related to the environment and climate;



Thanks!
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Aligning plastic policies with tobacco control and preventing industry interference



Laura Salgado

Head of Campaign and Partnership



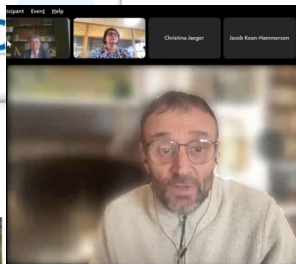
Global Center for
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in Tobacco Control

Stop Tobacco Pollution Alliance (STPA)

- A 100-organization-strong global movement with a unified position aligned with WHO FCTC.



STPA is convened by:



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Stay Involved

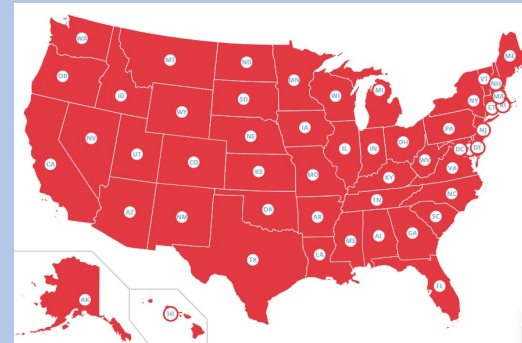


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Resource to Use



*U.S. Tobacco
Lobbyist & Lobbying
Firm Registration
Tracker 2023*

ash.org/tobacco-money



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