



FCTC

WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

FCTC - what does it mean for you?

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THE FCTC MAKES CLEAR:

- Harm reduction strategies are part of tobacco control.
- There is an obligation on FCTC parties to not only allow reduced risk products, but to actively promote them as part of implementing their tobacco control policies.
- That Parties to the FCTC will consider harm reduction strategies that eliminate or reduce – if the FCTC did not admit that concept it would provide only for measures that secure cessation.

Article 1

Use of terms

For the purposes of this Convention:

(d) “**tobacco control**” means a range of supply, demand and **harm reduction strategies** that aim to improve the health of a population by eliminating or **reducing** their consumption of tobacco products and exposure to tobacco smoke;

FCTC - OBJECTIVE

Article 3

Objective

The objective of this Convention and its protocols is to protect present and future generations from the devastating health, social, environmental and economic consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke by providing **a framework for tobacco control measures** to be implemented by the Parties at the national, regional and international levels in order to **reduce continually and substantially** the prevalence of tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke.

Remember: Tobacco Control includes “harm reduction strategies”

THE FCTC MAKES CLEAR:

- That measures should give priority to protect human health;

Preamble

The Parties to this Convention,

(1) Determined to give priority to their **right to protect public health,**

(19) Recalling Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 1966, which states that it is the **right of everyone** to the enjoyment of the **highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,**

(20) Recalling also the preamble to the Constitution of the World Health Organization, which states that the **enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being** without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition

THE FCTC MAKES CLEAR:

- That **tobacco control** measures should be based on the most current and relevant scientific, technical and economic considerations.

Preamble

The Parties to this Convention,

(21) *Determined* to promote measures of **tobacco control** based on current and relevant scientific, technical and economic considerations,

Considerations that were current and relevant when the FCTC was created
are no longer current or relevant today.

THE FCTC MAKES CLEAR:

- Cooperation is essential

Article 22

Cooperation in the scientific, technical, and legal fields and provision of related expertise

1. The Parties shall cooperate directly or through competent international bodies to strengthen their capacity to fulfill the obligations arising from this Convention, taking into account the needs of developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition. Such cooperation shall promote the transfer of technical, scientific and legal expertise and technology, as mutually agreed, **to establish and strengthen national tobacco control strategies, plans and programmes aiming at, *inter alia*:**

(a) facilitation of the development, transfer and acquisition of technology, knowledge, skills, capacity and expertise related to tobacco control;

(b) provision of technical, scientific, legal and other expertise to **establish and strengthen national tobacco control strategies, plans and programmes, aiming at implementation of the Convention through, *inter alia*:**

(i) assisting, upon request, in the development of a strong legislative foundation as well as technical programmes, including those on prevention of initiation, promotion of cessation and **protection from exposure to tobacco smoke;**

SUMMARY

1. The promotion of reduced harm tobacco and nicotine products constitutes tobacco control.
2. Parties to the FCTC (currently 180 governments) have an obligation to implement national harm reduction measures.
3. It is the duty of governments, (public health), to promote any and all strategies that are necessary for, or incrementally conducive to (however small) , the “highest attainable standard of health” , which includes any harm reduction strategy that aims to improve health by reducing consumption and /or exposure.
4. There is an obligation on FCTC parties to not only allow reduced risk products, but to actively promote them as part of implementing their tobacco control policies.
5. Cooperation in scientific and technical fields is essential.
6. The tobacco control framework as outlined in the FCTC objective, should include a suite of deemed reduced risk products including Swedish snus, vapour products (nicotine and tobacco) and other new nicotine products – to reduce the collective harm from tobacco smoke.