

One billion consumers of safer nicotine products ought to be the principal beneficiaries of enlightened, science-based regulatory frameworks allowing us access to the life-saving technologies of these products.

We deserve to be properly and effectively represented to and by the delegates of our respective countries, with our interests first and foremost in any policy discussion around our use of nicotine. We deserve to take our rightful place at the table during policy discussions and be treated with respect and consideration.

We call on all delegates in the Western Pacific Region (WPRO) to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, as representatives of their respective countries allow adult citizens to have access to safer alternatives to combustible and unsafe oral nicotine through risk proportionate regulation of safer nicotine products, including E-cigarettes, Heat Not Burn Tobacco and snus.

WE, here at AHRF 2023, demand for <u>COMPLETE TRANSPARENCY</u> of the process and proceedings for CoP10 (Conference of the Parties) meetings and the process of vetting representatives therein. The demand is rooted in the principles of openness, accountability, and fairness. Addressing crucial issues, such as those discussed at CoP meetings, the public and all stakeholders should have access to clear and unambiguous information about how decisions are made and actions are taken.

We urge the delegates to make sure that:

- Consumers, researchers, and the media to be actively engaged and represented
 at EVERY LEVEL within the process, extending to the highest level of delegation
 membership. This call for inclusivity ensures a well-rounded and transparent
 approach, where diverse perspectives, research insights, and media scrutiny
 contribute to more comprehensive and fair decision-making. By including these
 stakeholders at every level, we can strive for a process that is not only
 accountable but also better equipped to address the multifaceted challenges we
 face at AHRF 2023.
- Financial transparency regarding the <u>FUNDING</u> of the WHO FCTC (World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control) reflects a fundamental commitment to accountability, ethical governance, and the responsible use of resources. It underscores the importance of clarity and openness in how financial resources are managed and allocated in an organization as critical as the WHO FCTC.
- WHO FOLLOWS THEIR MANDATE, specifically in relation to the definition of 'tobacco control' within the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), is founded on a deep commitment to safeguarding public health and advancing evidence-based strategies to combat the global tobacco epidemic. By doing so, we prioritize the health and well-being of populations worldwide and remain committed to evidence-based, comprehensive, and equitable strategies to combat this significant public health challenge.

WP Declaration October 2023 1

THE WESTERN PACIFIC DECLARATION:

- WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) must center on the
 principles of evidence-based decision-making, transparency, and scientific rigor
 in its actions and policy formulation. It must adhere to the practice of openly and
 comprehensively considering and sharing all relevant published and
 peer-reviewed scientific studies, without bias regarding their source.
- INFORMATION must be grounded in the principles of accuracy, objectivity, and the pursuit of sound scientific knowledge within the World Health Organization (WHO). The WHO must cease the dissemination of disinformation, biased opinions, and rhetoric that is antagonistic to Tobacco Harm Reduction (THR), and instead, steadfastly follows established scientific evidence. By adhering to these principles and ceasing the dissemination of disinformation and biased opinions, the organization can enhance its effectiveness in promoting global public health and addressing the complex challenges associated with tobacco use and harm reduction.

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