

Immediate action in 10 steps

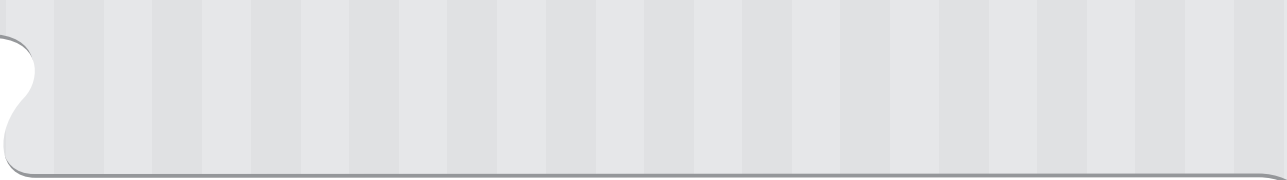
Fact sheet 3

1. Convene a working group with officials and experts from finance, customs, police, health, budget and justice.
2. Elect a chair and a secretary of this working group during its first meeting.
3. Adopt a timetable with intermediate steps and expected outcomes for the next 5 years. The objective should be to ratify the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products in 2015 and prepare its implementation. The legislative decision making process for the ratification and the implementation of the Protocol should be part of this timetable. Model instruments for ratification are available at <http://www.who.int/fctc/protocol/ratification/en/>
4. Remind the participants that the implementation of the obligations of the Protocol requires transparency with respect to any interactions they have with the tobacco industry.
5. Gather information among neighbouring countries, international police, customs and law enforcement organizations on policies to combat the illicit trade in tobacco products.
6. Collect data on illicit trade and undertake an analysis of the characteristics of seized tobacco products such as the type of product, brand names, place of seizure, modus operandi, intended destination, counterfeit or not, number and weight.
7. Commission a study on the scope and characteristics of the illicit tobacco trade which could be based on the comparison of tax paid sales and individually reported consumption data, survey of tobacco users' purchase behaviour or observational data collection by examining tax stamps, health warnings and other markings on the packaging of tobacco products.
8. Prepare a document with the actual legal requirements to combat illicit trade and the necessary legislative changes for implementation of the Protocol with a focus on measures to control the supply chain and offences. A self-assessment checklist for Parties to assess their legal, regulatory and policy frameworks in view of the requirements of the Protocol was prepared by the Convention Secretariat in the six official languages of the COP and is available on the Convention Secretariat's website: <http://www.who.int/fctc/protocol/en/>
9. Plan a regional meeting to establish a tracking and tracing regime in a regional context. The adoption of standards for the identification markings should be based on international standards to facilitate the exchange of data between countries and should not rely on technology developed by the tobacco industry. This meeting should, if possible, be coordinated by staff with expertise in information technology.
10. Report the findings to the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol which could take place three months after 40 Parties have ratified the Protocol.



**World Health
Organization**

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean



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