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COORDINATION QUESTIONS: MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION  
ON TOBACCO OR HEALTH

Australia: draft resolution

Multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolution WHA45.20 of 13 May 1992, in which the Assembly requested multisectoral collaboration within the United Nations system on tobacco or health issues,

Acknowledging the established leadership of the World Health Organization in alerting all Member States to the seriousness of the tobacco pandemic by providing estimates that tobacco causes 3 million deaths a year and that, based on current smoking patterns, that figure is expected to increase to 10 million a year within the next few decades,

Concerned that, in countries where estimations have been made, more than one third of smokers who begin to smoke during adolescence and continue to smoke throughout their lives will die prematurely as a result of their habit and that, despite long-standing and widespread knowledge of the serious health consequences of tobacco use, worldwide tobacco production exceeds 7 million tonnes and is still increasing,

Noting also that the World Health Assembly, through its resolutions WHA39.14 and WHA43.16, has urged Member States to adopt comprehensive strategies of tobacco control,

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Noting further that the World Bank, having recognized that tobacco production and use are in the long term detrimental both to health and to global and national economies, has adopted a policy of providing no new loans for tobacco growing or manufacturing projects,

Acknowledging the socio-economic context of tobacco production and the concerns of the few countries that depend heavily on tobacco production, and acknowledging also that the implementation of comprehensive strategies as recommended by the World Health Organization will involve matters of tobacco agriculture, commerce, trade, taxation and marketing,

Acknowledging that many international agencies including the Food and Agriculture Organization, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Bank must collaborate closely in developing multisectoral approaches to the tobacco or health issue,

1. Takes note of the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the need for multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health; 1/

2. Urges Governments to intensify their commitment and efforts designed to reduce tobacco consumption and the demand for tobacco products, including the implementation of comprehensive multisectoral plans;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to seek the full collaboration of the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Health Organization, other United Nations organizations and other international organizations, as appropriate, in contributing to the successful implementation of effective comprehensive strategies through multisectoral collaboration among international agencies;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to establish, within existing resources, a focal point within the United Nations on the subject of multisectoral collaboration on the economic aspects of tobacco production and consumption, taking into particular account the serious health consequences of tobacco use;

5. Suggests that the multisectoral collaboration organized through the United Nations focal point seek to offer practical advice and assistance to Member States on how they can implement or strengthen comprehensive national tobacco control strategies, as called for in World Health Assembly resolutions WHA39.14 and WHA43.16;

6. Suggests that a review of and recommendations concerning the impact of tobacco production on the economy and health of populations in the few developing countries that depend upon tobacco as a major source of income be included in the multisectoral collaboration work coordinated by the focal point;

7. Requests that Member States and organizations of the United Nations system develop a range of options, including bilateral and multilateral collaboration on agricultural diversification or development of other economic alternatives to tobacco agriculture, as appropriate, to assist tobacco export-dependent economies, where demand for their tobacco products has been adversely affected by successful tobacco control strategies;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the work of the United Nations focal point begin as soon as possible and that each contributing agency, in consultation with concerned Member States, together with the focal point, develop, before 31 December 1993, individual plans of work, setting out deadlines and achievement milestones, for their agency's contribution to multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health that will lead to a rapid reduction in the burden of disease and death caused by the global tobacco pandemic, while giving due consideration to any economic adjustments that may arise from a reduction in the demand for tobacco products;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to report, to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994, on progress made by the United Nations focal point in the implementation of multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health and further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the response of the United Nations system to the pandemic of tobacco-induced disease and death, taking into account the present resolution.

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