



Report on meetings of expert committees and study groups

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UICC supported by NCD Alliance, welcome the report from the WHO Study Group on Tobacco Product Regulation. The recommendations made can help guide WHO's technical programme and support national policies on novel and emerging tobacco products, as requested by member states during the 8th Conference of the Parties of the FCTC in 2018.

Tobacco is one of the main risk factors for cancer and NCDs and kills 8 million people per year. There is a growing body of evidence linking the use of tobacco and presence of NCDs with an increased risk of severe COVID-19 cases and death. Regulation of all tobacco products is therefore essential to promote health as part of the COVID-19 response and to curtail its longer-term health impacts. We urge member states to take note and support the recommendations made and accelerate action by:

- Accelerating the implementation of evidence-based measures to reduce tobacco use contained within the WHO FCTC.
- Using existing regulations for tobacco products to regulate heated tobacco products (HTPs), including the device.
- Ensuring that the public is well informed about the risks associated with use of HTPs, correcting false perceptions of safety, and countering misinformation.
- Utilising independent data free from tobacco industry interference or associated organisations, such as Foundation for a smoke-free world, and support independent research into public health interventions to reduce the use of HTPs.
- Banning all activities related to the marketing of electronic nicotine delivery systems, electronic non-nicotine delivery systems and HTPs by organisations funded by and associated with the tobacco industry, which particularly target youth, including via social media, to ensure that novel and emerging products are not presented as 'safe' or 'low risk'.

Finally, we urge Member States to actively participate in the forthcoming 9th Conference of the Parties of the FCTC in November 2021 to counter the tobacco industry tactics and guide the global community toward a tobacco-free world.