

POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL (FCTC)

FCTC AND U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN GLOBAL TOBACCO CONTROL

The United States has fully engaged with the global community to produce a strong and dynamic FCTC that will facilitate international cooperation in the development of strong tobacco control programs. The final draft FCTC is based on proven tobacco control efforts. It identifies sound public health policies for countries to adopt or strengthen. A treaty widely supported by Member States will greatly expand the effectiveness of global collaborative research and foster strong initiatives to reduce tobacco use.

The United States is a world leader in tobacco control and is dedicated to working with partners to prevent future death and disease through effective and sustainable global tobacco prevention activities. We have committed more resources than any other country to research, development and evaluation of tobacco control programs, both domestically and internationally.

To help monitor the global tobacco epidemic, the United States, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), has developed four global survey systems, including the Global Health Tobacco Survey, which has been used in 150 countries. We have worked with countries to produce reports to document their tobacco situations and control strategies. The United States has funded multi-national research partnerships to address rising tobacco-related death and disease in the developing world. We have developed skill-building workshops for leaders in Central and Eastern Europe and many developing countries. We have worked with WHO and international sports organizations to reduce or eliminate tobacco advertising and sponsorship for sporting events and ensure tobacco free environments.

SIGNING THE FCTC

U.S. participation in the FCTC would augment and strengthen the existing U.S. technical and financial investment in global tobacco control, especially in areas of international cooperation such as research, health statistics, information exchange and efforts to reduce illicit traffic in tobacco products.

It is the intent of the United States to sign the FCTC and to press for its ratification by our Senate. We have examined the text carefully and we share the desire of other WHO member states who do not want to re-open substantive issues in the FCTC at the World Health Assembly.

However, as noted in our statement at the final negotiating session, our ability to sign and ratify the Convention is undermined by the current prohibition on reservations. We would like your support in deleting this provision from the FCTC prior to its approval by the World Health Assembly. Deletion of this prohibition will enable us, and others, to pursue the process of signing and ratifying the Convention, and will facilitate the level of wide international participation necessary for the Convention to be a success.