

Joint statement by WHO and the Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

**Delivered at the 5th meeting of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), 28-31 March 2017, Ottawa, Canada
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Chairperson, representatives of member states of Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, dear colleagues and participants,

Among the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Target 3.a is to “Strengthen the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate.”

WHO and the Convention Secretariat have agreed to partner in this monitoring effort and have jointly prepared this statement.

The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control was developed under the auspices of WHO, adopted by the World Health Assembly, the WHO’s governing body, in May 2003, and entered into force in 2005. The Conference of the Parties is the governing body of the Convention and a permanent Secretariat hosted in WHO reports to the Conference of the Parties. The Conference of the Parties keeps implementation of the Convention under regular review, and takes the decisions necessary to promote effective implementation.

The seventh session of the Conference of the Parties adopted the Delhi Declaration, which calls on Parties “*to actively pursue the achievement of SDG Target 3.a and strengthen the implementation of the WHO FCTC*”, and requested the Convention Secretariat “*to take the lead in coordinating support to Parties to this effect in collaboration with WHO and other intergovernmental organizations, and to make all efforts to promote additional related targets including but not limited to gender equality and reduced inequalities*”.

Given the responsibilities of SDG data custodians, including compilation of internationally comparable data and supporting countries to increase compliance with standards for reporting, WHO and the Convention Secretariat propose to become co-custodians of target 3.a within the scope of their existing mandates.

The responsibilities will be as follows. WHO has the mandate to monitor progress towards targets for the control of Non Communicable Diseases and key risk factors such as tobacco use, including target 3.a. In this capacity, WHO will collect and analyse the data necessary to evaluate SDG indicator 3.a.1 (age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and above). The Convention Secretariat will collect information on compliance with treaty obligations. In agreement with the Convention Secretariat, WHO will use information of both kinds to report on progress towards target 3.a.

We hope that this partnership is acceptable to all parties.

Thank you for your attention.