# WHO STUDY GROUP ON TOBACCO PRODUCT REGULATION

Report on the Scientific Basis of Tobacco Product Regulation: Fourth Report of a WHO Study Group



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Buenos Aires, Argentina, 22-24 November 2010

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## 1. Introduction

The sixth meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO) Study Group on Tobacco Product Regulation (TobReg) was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 22–24 November 2010. TobReg is mandated to provide the WHO Director-General with scientifically sound, evidence-based recommendations for Member States about tobacco product regulation. In line with the provisions of Articles 9 and 10 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), TobReg identifies approaches for regulating tobacco products that pose significant public health issues and raise questions for tobacco control policy.

At its sixth meeting, after reviewing background documents and obtaining clarifications from the presenters, the Study Group discussed heavy metals in tobacco and cigarette smoke, generational and trans-generational tobacco-induced pathogenesis and evidence on epigenetic mechanisms, cigarette butt pollution, a novel environmental approach to reducing tobacco consumption and the rationale for a regulatory framework to reduce the dependence potential of tobacco products.

Regulation of tobacco products is essential for tobacco control and is endorsed by the WHO FCTC in provisions of its Articles 9, 10 and 11. Regulation serves public health goals by meaningful surveillance of the manufacture, packaging, labelling and distribution of tobacco products. Scientifically based principles for implementing the articles create synergy and mutual

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