

# Accelerating WHO FCTC Implementation in the WHO South-East Asia Region A PRACTICAL Approach



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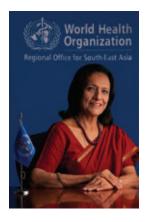
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#### **Foreword**



Tobacco kills more than 7.2 million people worldwide every year, with over 80% of them living in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The WHO South-East Asia (SEA) Region is home to one in every four smokers globally (nearly 246 million), and more than 80% of the world's smokeless tobacco users (290 million). More than 1.3 million persons in the Region die each year as a result of tobacco use. Tobacco control remains a challenge in the Region in view of countries having contrasting geographical patterns, diverse populations and ethnicity, wide range of political systems, different socio-cultural norms, rampant tobacco industry interference, and large variety of tobacco products consumed.

The World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) is an evidence-based treaty which consists of demand reduction and supply reduction measures. The treaty has also been recognized as one of the implementation target (target 3a) under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG3) to be achieved by 2030.

To assist the country-level implementation of the WHO FCTC demand reduction measures, WHO introduced a package of six effective tobacco control policies in 2008, called the MPOWER package.

The SEA Region Member countries are working towards achieving the voluntary target of 30% relative reduction in prevalence of current tobacco use in persons aged 15 years and above by 2025 as enshrined in their respective National NCD Action Plans under the Global NCD Monitoring Framework. For more than a decade of WHO FCTC implementation in the SEA Region, Member States have achieved many milestones, but a lot still remains to be done. Countries have been constantly taking steps to enhance various tobacco control initiatives.

The WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO) has guided and supported its Member States in the effective implementation of FCTC and the MPOWER package. This document has been developed to further accelerate the implementation of WHO FCTC in the SEA Region Member States. A PRACTICAL Approach for the prevention and control of tobacco in the Region comprising a mix of effective demand and supply reduction measures is recommended to support countries.

It is hoped that the countries will gain and benefit by curtailing the tobacco epidemic and reducing its impact on the health of citizens, the environment and national economies by adopting and implementing the "PRACTICAL Approach".

Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh Regional Director

Phitagol

#### **List of Abbreviations**

AFTA ASEAN Free Trade Area

ASEAN Association of South-East Asian Nations

COP Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC

ENDS electronic nicotine delivery system

ENNDS electronic non-nicotine delivery system

FCTC Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

GATS Global Adult Tobacco Survey

ITP Illicit Trade Protocol

MDGs Millennium Development Goals

MoHFW Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

NCD noncommunicable diseases

NRT nicotine replacement therapy

SDGs Sustainable Development Goals

SEAR South-East Asia Region

SHS second-hand smoke

ST smokeless tobacco

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