

ADVISORY NOTE

Waterpipe tobacco smoking: health effects, research needs and recommended actions for regulators

2nd edition

WHO Study Group on Tobacco Product Regulation (TobReg)



World Health
Organization

WHO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Advisory note: waterpipe tobacco smoking: health effects, research needs and recommended actions by regulators – 2nd ed.

1.Smoking – adverse effects. 2.Tobacco – toxicity. 3.Tobacco – legislation.

I.World Health Organization. II.WHO Study Group on Tobacco Product Regulation.

ISBN 978 92 4 150846 9

(NLM classification: QV 137)

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Printed by the WHO Document Production Services, Geneva, Switzerland

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1. Preface

Tobacco product regulation, which involves regulating the contents and emissions of tobacco products by testing, mandating the disclosure of the test results and regulating the packaging and labelling of tobacco products, is one of the pillars of any comprehensive tobacco control programme. The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), a binding international treaty, acknowledges the importance of tobacco product regulation in Articles 9, 10 and 11, and Parties to the Convention are bound by the provisions of those articles.

A WHO scientific advisory group on tobacco product regulation was established in 2000 to fill the gaps in knowledge that existed at the time. The scientific information provided by that group served as a basis for the negotiations and the subsequent consensus reached on the language of those three articles of the Convention.

In November 2003, in recognition of the critical importance of regulating tobacco products, the WHO Director-General formalized the ad hoc Scientific Advisory Committee on Tobacco Product Regulation by changing its status to that of a study group, which became the WHO Study Group on Tobacco Product Regulation (TobReg). The Group is composed of national and international scientific experts on product regulation, treatment of tobacco dependence and

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