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ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ
ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО

Global Consultation on Novel and Emerging Nicotine and Tobacco Products

Scope and purpose

Moscow, Russian Federation
2-3 April 2020

28 January 2020

Original: English

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Scope

The World Health Organization (WHO) across its three levels, together with the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation will hold a Global Consultation on Novel and Emerging Nicotine and Tobacco Products. The consultation will take place in Moscow, Russian Federation over two days from 2 – 3 April 2020 and will bring together international experts, NGOs, Scientists, Tobacco Control Focal Points from the Ministry of Health and/or relevant regulatory agency to deliberate on pertinent issues and topics related to building capacity for regulation of these products and the approaches taken to date to regulate or control these products. The consultation will focus primarily on electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), electronic non-nicotine delivery systems (ENNDS) and heated tobacco products (HTPs), which have proliferated in various markets around the world.

Purpose

Electronic nicotine delivery systems and/or electronic non-nicotine delivery systems are available in over 100 countries and heated tobacco products are available in about 40 countries. Whilst some countries regulate these products, the approaches taken to regulation (including banning) are quite diverse and dependent on country context. ENDS are currently banned in 30 countries, whereas HTPs are banned in about 5 countries. However, these products are available in some countries with no regulation. Although these products have collectively generated global attention in recent times, the product categories are distinct and should not be conflated. It must therefore be noted that HTPs are considered tobacco products, whereas ENDS and ENNDS do not contain tobacco. Given the uncharacteristic properties of these products, the marketing and promotion of ENDS/ENNDS to youth, uptake of these products by youth in some jurisdictions, the pressure on government to accept these products as "reduced risk/harm" products relative to cigarettes, conflicting scientific evidence and the debate on whether they are effective cessation aids, they present unique challenges to regulators. Owing to this, WHO has been approached by several countries to provide authoritative guidance and technical assistance to support countries in building capacity and in deciding a regulatory pathway or framework for these products, especially to protect young people.

Therefore, the purpose of the Global Consultation is to

i.) holistically evaluate available information on these products and present a platform for countries to share experiences on challenges, achievements and regulatory needs, and
ii.) facilitate engagement between international scientists on the scientific evidence with policy makers to bridge the gap between science and policy.

The consultation will afford participants the opportunity to directly engage with experts and to support countries in building capacity to effectively regulate these products.

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Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes are as follows:

- A guidance document that can be used by Member States as reference material on the current state of scientific knowledge, regulatory and policy options available on ENDS, ENNDS and HTPs.
- Countries enabled with knowledge, and shared experience to deal with the regulatory challenges presented by ENDS, ENNDS and HTPs.

The Global Consultation will also serve to drive the wider tobacco control agenda by closing the loopholes exploited by tobacco and related industries, through these products, to undermine tobacco control policies. This will contribute to driving impact at country level toward the achieving SDG3a, **'*Strengthening the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate*'.**

Dates of meeting

The meeting will run over 2 days and will take place in Moscow, Russian Federation from 2 – 3 April 2020. The working hours are from 9:00 – 18:00.

Working language/Translation

The working languages will be English and Russian, the simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Participants

The meeting will bring together about 120 participants, including Ministry of Health representatives from selected countries from the 6 regions of WHO and the host country, technical experts with diverse backgrounds, WHO staff, the Chairs of the WHO Study Group on Tobacco Product Regulation (TobReg) and the Tobacco Laboratory Network (TobLabNet), as well as, some members of TobReg with appropriate expertise, the WHO FCTC Convention Secretariat, relevant NGOs and WHO Collaborating Centres.