

76th Session of the WHO Western Pacific Regional Committee

Provisional agenda item 14: Technical discussions

Subitem 14.4: Tobacco control

(Document [WPR/RC76/8](#))

FDI World Dental Federation (FDI), and the International Association for Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Research (IADR), thank the Chair for this opportunity.

The harmful impact of the tobacco industry's activities cannot be overemphasized. FDI and IADR commend Member States for tracking their unrelenting marketing activities, especially those targeting children and youth while also noting their efforts to hinder tobacco control efforts through interference in policy implementation, lobbying, misinformation and several other tactics.

We support recognizing tobacco control as a national development priority and welcome momentum to regulate e-cigarettes, heated tobacco, and other emerging products. IADR's Position Statement underscores the dangers of all forms of tobacco and nicotine and calls for stronger evidence-based policies. Also, both IADR and FDI do not accept or present tobacco-funded research at their meetings.

Additionally, we welcome the emphasis on a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to tobacco control for sustained action.

Despite the progress made regionally, and nationally, many countries will not achieve the Regional Action Plan 2023 target of a 30% relative reduction in tobacco use.

The report on tobacco control highlights opportunities to accelerate progress which must be underpinned by research. We urge Member States to further strengthen their tobacco control measures with:

1. comprehensive strategic communication and advocacy campaigns,
2. increasing tobacco taxes to WHO-recommended levels and
3. mainstreaming the participation of civil society and non-state actors in tobacco control for enhanced accountability.

FDI provides capacity building support for National Dental Associations through tobacco cessation training workshops.

A workshop was held in Hong Kong in August 2025, and another workshop will be held in Malaysia this December.

FDI and IADR urge Member States to collaborate with their national dental associations, oral health research associations and other relevant civil society actors to ensure more robust tobacco control responses.

Thank you.

296 words (max 300 words).