



WFC POLICY STATEMENT

Support for WHO's Tobacco Free Initiative

Approved by the Assembly of the World Federation of Chiropractic

Orlando, Florida, USA, April 30, 2003

WHEREAS it is now well established by international scientific evidence that smoking tobacco, the use of other tobacco products, and exposure to second-hand smoke are among the most serious and pervasive but preventable threats to individual and public health.

AND WHEREAS the World Health Organization is responding to this threat by establishing a program of action known as the Tobacco Free Initiative, including the development of a Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, for which the WHO is seeking support from all stakeholders in the health care community.

AND WHEREAS the World Federation of Chiropractic has supported the WHO's Tobacco Free Initiative since its inception in 1998 and now wishes to further strengthen that support.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED THAT the World Federation of Chiropractic endorses and supports the World Health Organization's Tobacco Free Initiative and proposed Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. The WFC considers that this Initiative and Convention are of major importance to developing the coordinated, worldwide effort necessary to reduce the use of tobacco products and the serious, preventable and unacceptable harm such use causes to human health. Additionally, the World Federation of Chiropractic encourages its member associations and others to take all steps possible towards the reduction of use of tobacco products, thereby improving individual and public health and supporting the goal of WHO's Tobacco Free Initiative.

Explanatory Notes

1. One of the World Health Organization's major public policy initiatives, commenced in May 1998, is the Tobacco Free Initiative (TFI) to reduce smoking and the harmful effects of the use of tobacco products on human health.

An important component of the TFI is development of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), an international treaty to be signed by member states and dealing comprehensively with all aspects of tobacco control — including supply, advertising, sales, taxation, advocacy, public health information, etc.

2. Development of the FCTC has been through a process of stakeholder meetings in Geneva called the International Negotiating Board (INB) meetings. The WFC has been an active participant at these meetings. A final meeting is scheduled for February 2003 and the treaty is to be put to WHO's annual assembly, known as the World Health Assembly, in Geneva next May, two weeks after the WFC Congress in Orlando.

WHO has called for all member nations and all NGOs to support this important initiative. That is the reason why this policy is proposed. (WFC's Health-for-All Committee is developing further specific tobacco policies, and you will receive notice of these by February 28, 2003.)