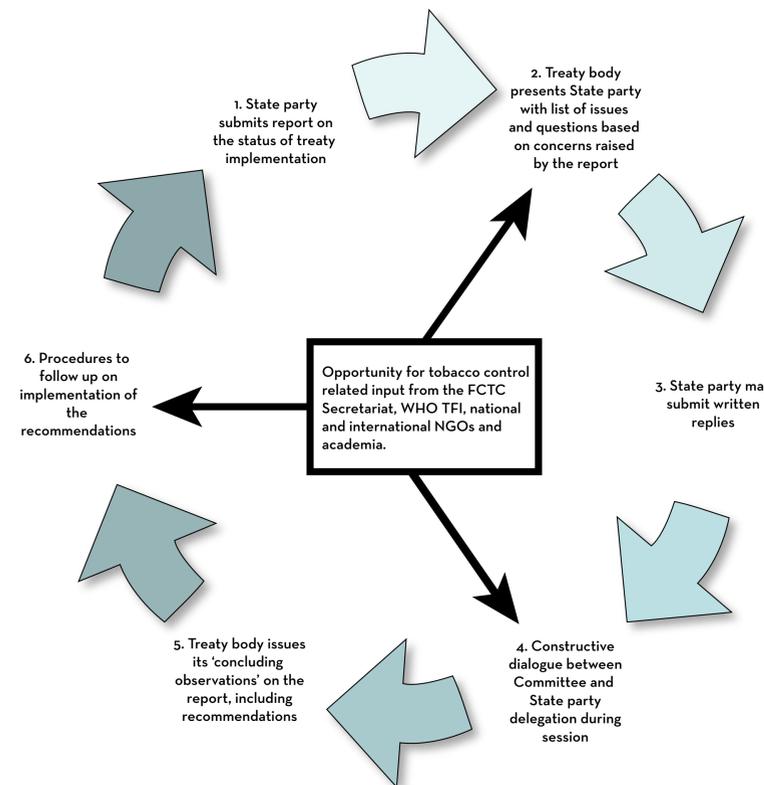


# Human Rights Based Approach to Tobacco Control

The Human Rights and Tobacco Control Network (www.hrtn.net)

**ABSTRACT:** The Framework Convention for Tobacco Control is currently the most potent tool for implementation of tobacco control laws across the globe. However, it relies on state parties to report periodically on its implementation rather than on a continuous monitoring system. The Human Rights and Tobacco Control Network (HRTCN) proposes that abiding by the principles of human rights delineated by international treaties, citizens across the globe can demand effective action for tobacco control.

The Human Rights and Tobacco Control Network (FCTC) utilizes a human rights based approach to help implement tobacco control. The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control is currently the most potent tool for implementation of tobacco control laws and is derivative from previously constructed international human rights Conventions. These previous conventions have enforcement mechanisms, unlike the FCTC. HRTCN works to link the FCTC and its principles with human rights based monitoring reports which are provided to oversight committees for the other human rights conventions. The initial work of HRTCN is summarized and considers the future directions for the human rights based approach to tobacco control.



**WHO's definition: 'Health is the state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.'**

**Example of RIGHTS within the Conventions:**

- Highest attainable standard of health
- Healthy environment
- To work under 'just and favorable conditions'
- To information; health-related education
- To food and to safe and potable water
- 'prevention and reduction of the population's exposure to harmful substances such as ... harmful chemicals or other detrimental environmental conditions that directly or indirectly impact upon human health'

**The Major Human Rights Conventions:**

- UN Declarations of Human Rights (1948)
- International covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990)
- Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (1981)

**Short country reports:**

- ONE page
- Easy to read
- Predictable
- Repeatable
- Simple
- Topline
- Direct

**TO DATE:**

- |              |             |            |
|--------------|-------------|------------|
| Argentina    | Mauritania  | Japan      |
| Cameroon     | Tanzania    | Jamaica    |
| Turkmenistan | Slovakia    | Iceland    |
| Estonia      | New Zealand | Azerbaijan |
| Israel       | Peru        | Iran       |
| Bulgaria     | Ethiopia    |            |
| Spain        | Ecuador     |            |

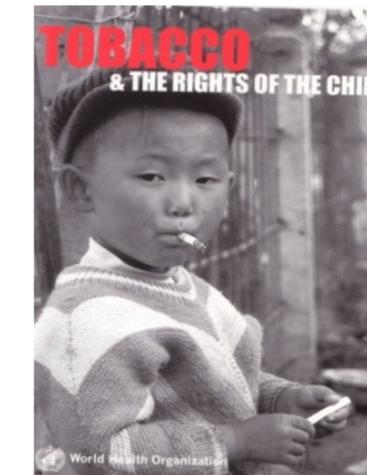
**Human Rights Documents**

**International Bill of Rights:**

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)

**Example of Slovakia Short Report 'ASK'**

1. *Surveillance:* Strengthen national monitoring and surveillance of tobacco.
2. *National Tobacco Control Strategy:* Develop a national strategic plan for tobacco control that identifies priority areas, outlines goals and includes the participation of civil society and professional organizations.
3. *Tobacco Taxes*
4. *Clean Indoor Air Laws:* Draft and pass national clean-indoor air legislation to restrict tobacco use and limit exposure to second-hand smoke. Current legislation exempts bars, nightclubs, restaurants and private workplaces.
5. *Smoking Cessation:* 1. Implement evidence-based smoking cessation programs by training physicians in smoking cessation and offering people who smoke nicotine replacement and other pharmacotherapies.



**Response to Slovakia:**

In view of the high prevalence of tobacco consumption in the State party, please inform the Committee whether, in addition to its awareness-raising campaigns, a more comprehensive approach, which would include among others the provision of therapy and the enforcement of a ban on indoor smoking in public places, is envisioned by the State party.