

OCEANIA INDIGENOUS TOBACCO CONTROL SYMPOSIUM



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INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO THE OCEANIA TOBACCO CONTROL CONFERENCE: SMOKE-FREE OCEANIA STATEMENT



Indigenous peoples to the 2017 Oceania Tobacco Control Conference: Smoke free Oceania

Request for endorsement by conference participants

We, the Indigenous peoples¹ and other supporters who attended the Indigenous Tobacco Symposium ask you, the participants of the 2017 Oceania Tobacco Control Conference, to support the resolutions for action and the principles described within this declaration.

Statement/Preamble

We, the Peoples who identify as the Indigenous peoples of the lands of Oceania and the Pacific, and supporters who attended the Indigenous Tobacco Symposium at the 2017 Oceania Tobacco Control Conference note that the international evidence and experience clearly shows that:

- The magnitude and scope of commercial (non-traditional) tobacco use among Indigenous peoples is an international public health crisis.
- There is a disproportionately detrimental impact of commercial tobacco products on the health, economic and cultural wellbeing of the Indigenous peoples compared to other populations within the Pacific/Oceania.
- The regional and global spread of the promotion and sale of commercial tobacco products among Indigenous peoples is a form of exploitation.
- The use of cultural imagery, peoples and iconography to promote commercial tobacco products is a form of cultural appropriation and exploitation.
- Working together as Indigenous peoples with the support of, and in collaboration with, government and non-government organisations as well as other supporters will give a stronger and focused means of countering tobacco companies' activities to promote and sell their products.
- The experiences of Indigenous peoples with the use of tobacco products are both diverse and similar; we strongly oppose and condemn the promulgation of commercial tobacco products upon our peoples.
- Some Indigenous peoples have traditional and sacred practices in relation to tobacco use that are to be safeguarded.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) makes specific provisions regarding the needs of and obligations to Indigenous peoples.

Resolutions for action

Indigenous Tobacco Symposium attendees acknowledge the history and evolution of Indigenous peoples' tobacco control and tobacco reduction declarations, including declarations made at the 2005 Australian Tobacco Control Conference, 2007 Oceania Tobacco Control Conference and the 2006 World Conference on Tobacco or Health. Indigenous Tobacco Symposium attendees resolve to the World Health Organization, through the Western Pacific Regional Office, Council of Australian Governments Health Council and the Health Ministers of the Oceania region to:

1. Support the existing FCTC, which recognizes the disproportionate harm of commercial tobacco and the need to engage with Indigenous peoples in planning, delivering, and evaluating tobacco control, including acknowledging:
 - i. FCTC obligations in relation to Indigenous peoples, enhancing Indigenous engagement, research and comprehensive tobacco control.

Oceanic Tobacco Control Conference

The Conference called for **greater regional and global efforts to recognise and address** the disproportionately detrimental impact of commercial tobacco products on the health, economic and cultural wellbeing of the Indigenous peoples.

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We, the Peoples who identify as the **Indigenous peoples of the lands of Oceania and the Pacific**, and supporters who attended the Indigenous Tobacco Symposium at the 2017 Oceania Tobacco Control Conference note that the international evidence and experience clearly shows that:

- The **magnitude and scope** of commercial (non-traditional) tobacco use among Indigenous peoples is an international public health crisis.
- There is a **disproportionately detrimental impact** of commercial tobacco products on the health, economic and cultural wellbeing of the Indigenous peoples compared to other populations within the Pacific/Oceania.
- The **regional and global spread** of the promotion and sale of commercial tobacco products among Indigenous peoples is a form of exploitation.
- The use of **cultural imagery, peoples and iconography** to promote commercial tobacco products is a form of cultural appropriation and exploitation.

Statement/Preamble *continued*

- **Working together** as Indigenous peoples with the support of, and in collaboration with, government and non-government organisations as well as other supporters will give a stronger and focused means of countering tobacco companies' activities to promote and sell their products.
- The experiences of Indigenous peoples with the use of tobacco products are both **diverse and similar**; we **strongly oppose and condemn the promulgation of commercial tobacco products** upon our peoples.
- Some Indigenous peoples have traditional and sacred practices in relation to tobacco use that are to be safeguarded.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) **Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)** makes specific provisions regarding the needs of and obligations to Indigenous peoples.
- We understand that **Indigenous peoples are self-defined** groups of Indigenous peoples linked together by diverse characteristics that can include kinship, land ties, language, culture, geographic residence, historic and/or current governance systems, and other collective causes.

Resolutions for action

- 1. Support the existing FCTC**, which recognizes the disproportionate harm of commercial tobacco and the **need to engage** with Indigenous peoples in **planning, delivering, and evaluating** tobacco control, including acknowledging:
 - FCTC obligations in relation to Indigenous peoples
 - The need for Indigenous led tobacco control research that is beneficial for Indigenous communities.
 - Practical considerations for governing, sampling and analysis of data.

Resolutions for action

2. Raise **commercial tobacco use as a priority issue** at the **United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**
3. Ensure **adequate funding** for support and **reinstatement of the WHO Indigenous Peoples Forum on Tobacco Use** with secretariat support from the World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office.

Resolutions for action

4. To **establish an Indigenous Oceania Tobacco Control network** with the aims of:
- Sharing experiences, knowledge, ideas and resources,
 - Promoting collaboration on regional interventions.
 - Enhance capacity of participating members at all levels, including leadership and among communities.
 - Raise awareness of tobacco use.
 - Reporting on progress to bodies, including the Western Pacific Regional Office and UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.