

Information Kit on WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs



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FCTC

WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

S E C R E T A R I A T

Information Kit on WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs

WHO/FCTC/2024.1

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Cataloguing-in-Publication (CIP) data. CIP data are available at <http://apps.who.int/iris>.

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Acknowledgements

This *Information Kit on WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs* was developed by the Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) and finalized under the guidance of Tibor Szilagyi, Team Lead for Reporting and Knowledge Management. Leticia Martinez Lopez, Martin Grande, Andrii Skipalskyi and Tibor Szilagyi contributed to its drafting and finalization. Special recognition goes to the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs that contributed to the drafting of the text and provided examples of their activities, including photographs.

The photographs presented in this document are courtesy of the respective Knowledge Hubs and of the Convention Secretariat.

The generous financial support of the Government of Italy is gratefully acknowledged.

Executive summary

There has been much progress in the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) since its adoption by the World Health Assembly in May 2003 and its entrance into force in February 2005. The Convention is one of the most unique and successful international agreements on public health, and it has contributed to saving millions of lives. However, many gaps still exist in its implementation by Parties to the Convention. The Secretariat of the WHO FCTC (Convention Secretariat), guided by decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the WHO FCTC, promotes and employs various resources and mechanisms to assist the Parties in their implementation efforts. The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs are one of these mechanisms.

The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs were established and operationalized by the Convention Secretariat, in most cases in cooperation or agreement with the governments of the respective Parties that host these Hubs, which are operated by reputable academic institutions, public health institutes or scientific entities. As Parties continue to face various challenges in implementation of the various articles of the WHO FCTC, due in part to a lack of technical expertise, Knowledge Hubs offer a wide range of assistance to fill in these knowledge and expertise gaps.

This Information Kit introduces the Knowledge Hubs and describes their functions and roles, as well as the types of technical assistance offered by them to the Parties to the WHO FCTC. It also guides the Parties, and specifically WHO FCTC focal points, on how to request assistance from the Knowledge Hubs. Since the establishment of the first Knowledge Hub in 2013, the Hubs have become valuable resources that the Convention Secretariat aims to promote also through this Information Kit.

1.

Introduction

1.1 Background

The concept of a “knowledge hub” emerged through decision FCTC/COP3(14)¹ of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) in 2008. This decision urged the Convention Secretariat to set up a website “which could be used as a knowledge hub on matters of cross-border advertising, promotion and sponsorship”. Although the concept was conceived in a different context, the Fourth session of the COP in 2010, in decision FCTC/COP4(20), advanced the initiative by allocating a specific budget line to identify and support regional and subregional networks and institutions capable of generating technical knowledge and providing expertise on certain areas related to the implementation of the WHO FCTC “that would act as hubs and would engage in cross-regional cooperation”, transferring such knowledge to the Parties.

On the other hand, Article 22 of the WHO FCTC (Cooperation in the scientific, technical and legal fields and provision of related expertise) states: “The Parties shall cooperate directly or through competent international bodies to strengthen their capacity to implement the Convention, taking into account the needs of developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition. Such cooperation shall promote the transfer of technical, scientific and legal expertise and technology...to establish and strengthen national tobacco control strategies, plans and programmes...” The Parties that support the establishment and operation of a Knowledge Hub in their jurisdiction could eventually be seen as promoting the spirit of Article 22 of the Convention.

The idea of establishing knowledge hubs derives from the experience of the World Health Organization (WHO) in operating “collaborating centres”. Historically, the idea of using the knowledge of and support by national institutions for international purposes dates to 1947 and the League of Nations, when national laboratories were first designated as reference centres for the standardization of biological products. Today, a WHO Collaborating Centre is an institution designated by the WHO Director-General in support of its programme of work at the country, regional, interregional and global levels. WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs are expected to serve a similar role, but are oriented more towards assisting the Parties, that is strengthening the implementation of the Convention nationally, but also regionally and globally, by utilizing the specific knowledge held or generated by these Hubs.

The Convention Secretariat had begun engaging years ago with institutions with specific expertise in particular areas related to the implementation of the Convention to establish knowledge centres that could fulfil the role of a Knowledge Hub. Beginning in 2013, through managerial decisions of the successive Heads of the Convention Secretariat, WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs have been established and commenced operation.

1 https://apps.who.int/gb/fctc/PDF/cop3/FCTC_COP3_DIV3-en.pdf



Visit by the Convention Secretariat to the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Surveillance at a planning meeting in June 2017.

Since that time, the establishment of Knowledge Hubs gained momentum. And the COP, in its various decisions relating to implementation of specific aspects of the WHO FCTC and in its adopted workplans and budgets, began to call for the establishment of additional Hubs, as it increasingly recognized their role in providing technical assistance to the Parties. Further on, the role of the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs was highlighted in the *Global Strategy to Accelerate Tobacco Control: Advancing sustainable development through the implementation of the WHO FCTC 2019–2025*, under its Strategic Objective 1.2 (Strengthen the role of knowledge hubs in assisting the Parties), adopted by the Eighth session of the COP.²

To date, nine Knowledge Hubs are in operation and are providing assistance to Parties to the WHO FCTC in accordance with Article 22 of the Convention; the most current information regarding them may be found on the WHO FCTC website.³

1.2 What is the purpose of this Information Kit?

This Information Kit was developed to promote the role and work of the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs, and to describe how the assistance they could provide can reach the Parties. It should also serve as reference material for tobacco control focal points (or WHO FCTC focal points) of the Parties who, most often, are best placed to identify the need for and request assistance from the Knowledge Hubs.

This Information Kit is intended to help Parties engage with, request and receive assistance from the Knowledge Hubs. It is also intended to be a practical tool that helps establish and nurture such engagement.

This Information Kit can also be utilized by a broad range of other stakeholders – in addition to the tobacco control focal points and representatives of various government departments of the Parties – to understand the aims and operation of the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs, and what roles they can play in assisting the Parties to the Convention. These stakeholders may include, among others, representatives of entities that work to advance and promote the implementation of the WHO FCTC in their respective countries, regions or even globally, such as nongovernmental organizations, international intergovernmental organizations and academic institutions.

2 COP decision FCTC/COP8(16) ([https://fctc.who.int/publications/m/item/fctc-cop8\(16\)-measures-to-strengthen-implementation-of-the-convention-through-coordination-and-cooperation](https://fctc.who.int/publications/m/item/fctc-cop8(16)-measures-to-strengthen-implementation-of-the-convention-through-coordination-and-cooperation))

3 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh>

1.3 What is a WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub?

A Knowledge Hub, in the context of the Convention Secretariat, is an institution or entity – such as a university, a research institute, an academy or a governmental body, like a ministry, or part of an institution or entity, for example, a department, division or unit – designated to act as a knowledge hub that supports the implementation of the WHO FCTC for a specific set of issues and at the global level.

The entity becomes a WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub when it signs a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Convention Secretariat for its designation as a knowledge hub.

The MOU is the agreement between the Convention Secretariat and the institution that hosts the designated Knowledge Hub, and through which the latter agrees to implement a workplan that outlines a series of concrete activities specifically developed or designed in collaboration with the Convention Secretariat to be completed within a specific time frame.

There is a set of eligibility criteria based on which the suitability of a candidate entity is assessed, and the possible designation of the entity as a WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub is expected to be built on a history of collaboration between the Convention Secretariat and the institution that seeks to host the knowledge hub. Checking the entity against these eligibility criteria also helps to ensure high-quality services and assistance to Parties.

In keeping with Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC and its Guidelines for implementation,⁴ neither the hosting institution or entity (in whole or in part) nor the designated knowledge hub, including the staff of the Knowledge Hub, should be affiliated with the tobacco industry, or any organizations or individuals that work to further the interests of the tobacco industry. To this end, the Convention Secretariat conducts due diligence before signing an MOU with the institution that intends to serve as a knowledge hub.

While all knowledge hubs are unique and hosted by a diverse set of institutions across the globe, they are global in their scope and operation, and operate in coordination with the Convention Secretariat.

As of the date of publication of this Information Kit, nine WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs were operational⁵ and ready to aid the Parties to the Convention, in the spirit of Article 22 of the WHO FCTC.

The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs work and could provide assistance on a specific area of implementation of the Convention, as per their remit, and at the global level, irrespective of the region where the Knowledge Hub is based, or to which the requesting Party belongs.

4 Guidelines for implementation of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC, available at http://www.who.int/entity/fctc/treaty_instruments/Guidelines_Article_5_3_English.pdf?ua=1

5 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh>

2.

WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs: functions, types and examples of assistance to Parties

The first WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub was established in December 2013, and since then the number of Hubs has increased incrementally. Implementation areas for which Knowledge Hubs could provide expert assistance include: tobacco taxation; surveillance; control of smokeless tobacco and waterpipe tobacco smoking; preventing tobacco industry interference; legal challenges; promotion of alternatives to tobacco growing; protection of the environment and the health of persons; education, communication and public awareness activities, among other areas. For the full list of Knowledge Hubs and their areas of work, please, refer to the homepage of their respective websites.³

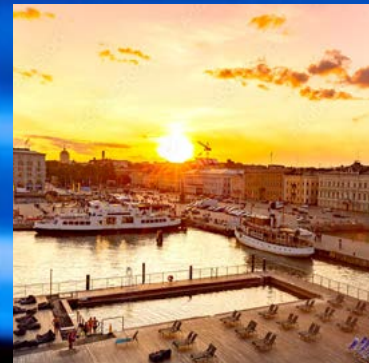
To ensure greater visibility for the work of the Hubs, the Convention Secretariat has established a generic web platform to access all Knowledge Hubs websites in order to facilitate their accessibility and use. The Knowledge Hubs have also been requested to use uniform logos and a standard presentation template, which also contribute to the promotion of their unique branding.

2.1 Functions of the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs

In general terms, Knowledge Hubs help generate knowledge, build capacity in the Parties and provide them with technical assistance.

As stated in their MOUs, each Knowledge Hub shall perform the following functions, in coordination and cooperation with the Convention Secretariat and in accordance with its terms of reference and the workplan agreed upon with the Convention Secretariat:

- generate and share expertise, information and knowledge, regionally and globally, in the focus area(s) of the Knowledge Hub;
- upon request, assist Parties to the WHO FCTC, irrespective of their geographical location, taking into account the needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, pursuant to Article 22 of the WHO FCTC, and to relevant provisions of the WHO FCTC;
- promote and facilitate, as appropriate, exchanges of information and good practices among the Parties to the WHO FCTC (for example, WHO FCTC focal points), observers to the COP, including international intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations and any other partners with which the Knowledge Hub might engage, further to agreement with the Convention Secretariat;
- collaborate in the dissemination of information on relevant technical matters in their area of competence, aligned with the overall communication efforts of the Convention Secretariat; and
- support the Convention Secretariat in hosting meetings, preparing technical materials, providing expert advice as needed, and participating in technical and subsidiary body meetings, as appropriate and requested by the Convention Secretariat.



Resource-intensive types of assistance and projects, under each category, but specifically concerning direct assistance to Parties, could only be carried out if the Knowledge Hubs have the necessary funds available.

A non-exhaustive list of the types of activities that relate to the functions of the Knowledge Hubs is included in the table below.

Table 1. Functions and types of activities of the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs

Function	Types of activities
a. Generate and share expertise, information and knowledge, regionally and globally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and carry out research • Publish and disseminate relevant papers • Compile research, papers, studies, information, etc. and make them publicly available
b. Assist Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance to all Parties to the WHO FCTC, upon their request, irrespective of the geographical location or language spoken • Provide such assistance through electronic means of communication (email, virtual meetings) or in face-to-face meetings (that is, for example, through a visit to the country and work with relevant stakeholders), etc.
c. Promote and facilitate exchange of information and good practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and manage web-based resources, for example, e-learning courses, e-libraries, repositories of information materials (databases) • Organize and conduct webinars, seminars, training programmes, workshops, meetings, etc.
d. Collaborate in dissemination of information, aligned with the communication efforts of the Convention Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutually reinforce communication efforts of the Knowledge Hubs and those of the Convention Secretariat • Collaborate in the development of communication materials • Contribute to the programmes where such communication materials are launched • Operate social media accounts, create blogs and e-bulletins, podcasts, etc.
e. Support the Convention Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host joint meetings, for example, training programmes • Host, participate in and contribute to the annual meetings of Knowledge Hub managers • Contribute to the analysis of data and information received from the Parties and assist the Convention Secretariat with the preparation of global progress reports on implementation of the WHO FCTC • Collaborate with the Convention Secretariat to carry out activities requested by the COP, through decisions and/or adopted workplans • Support and advise the Convention Secretariat on technical matters related to their areas of expertise • Participate in technical and subsidiary body meetings, as requested by the Convention Secretariat, etc.

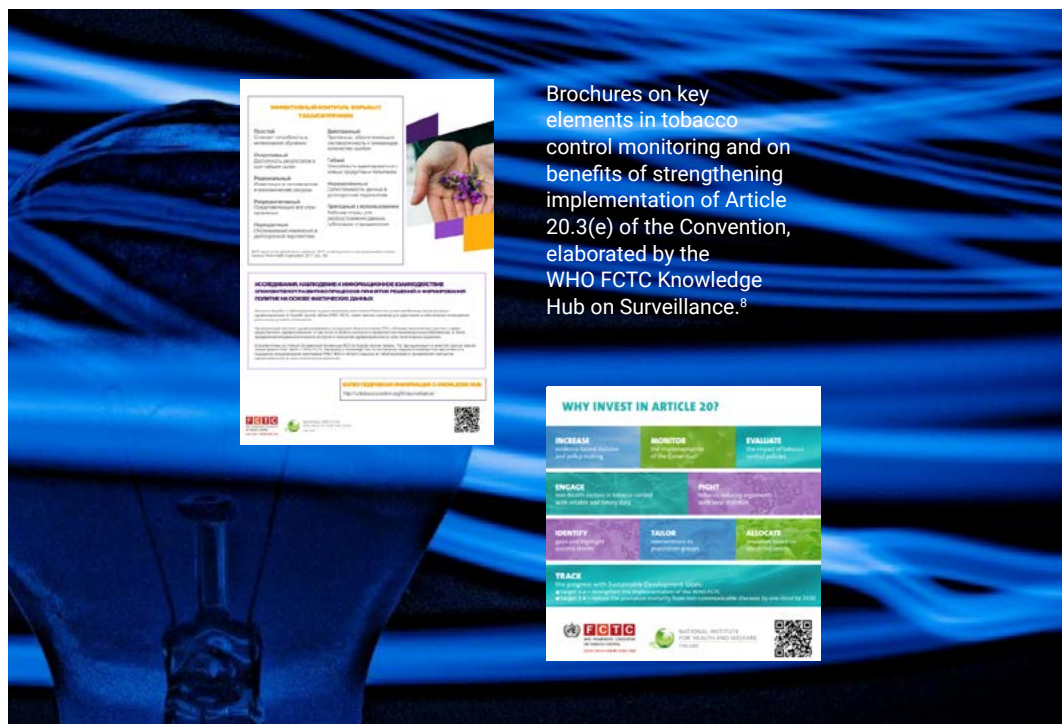
2.2 Examples of assistance provided by WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs on implementation of the Convention

With reference to the list of functions provided in Table 1, more details and examples on the types of activities carried out by the Knowledge Hubs are provided in the subsections below.

These and similar examples are shared with the Parties on a regular basis through the following means:

- regularly updated websites of the Knowledge Hubs;³
- a newsletter produced regularly by the Convention Secretariat, informing Parties about the activities and news from the Knowledge Hubs, which is emailed directly to WHO FCTC focal points;⁶ and
- the Announcement Board that is part of the WHO FCTC Coordination Platform of the Convention Secretariat and is dedicated to the presentation of information from and for the Parties on the implementation of the WHO FCTC.⁷

The photographs presented in this document are courtesy of the respective Knowledge Hubs and of the Convention Secretariat.



6 <https://fctc.who.int/coordination-platforms/knowledge-hubs/news>

7 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/announcements>

8 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/surveillance/knowledge-hub-materials>

(a) Generate and share expertise, information and knowledge, regionally and globally

The Knowledge Hubs conduct desk research and produce reports, expert reviews, policy briefs and other information products within their respective field of expertise. The Knowledge Hubs may produce their own expert or research papers, or they may collate and/or analyse information available in the public domain and research conducted by others and disseminate them more widely or make them accessible on their websites. Such activities, if performed regularly, have the potential to provide Parties to the Convention with important updates and information that could be used in their tobacco control work.



⁹ https://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/28/Suppl_2

¹⁰ <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/slt/news/now-out-global-smokeless-tobacco-control-policies-and-their>

Implementación de una Estrategia de Cese de Tabaco en Personas que Viven con VIH y Tuberculosis.
Aplicación del Artículo 14 del Convenio Marco de la OMS para el Control del Tabaco

Centro de Intercambio de Conocimiento de la Secretaría de la OMS sobre Cese de Tabaco Internacional
Centro de Cooperación Internacional para el Control del Tabaco (COICTC)
Uruguay, 2019

The report of the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on International Cooperation on implementing a tobacco cessation strategy in people living with HIV and tuberculosis (2019) is available in English and Spanish.¹¹

The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Legal Challenges published a paper that reviews plain packaging laws in Australia and the legal challenges brought against them.¹²

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SECRETARIAT-KNOWLEDGE HUB

McCabe
Centre
FOR LAW
& CHANGE

The *Australia – Plain Packaging* disputes at the WTO: a summary and stocktake after the final Appellate Body decision

(b) Assist Parties

The Knowledge Hubs are ready to provide technical assistance within their areas of expertise to Parties, upon request. In some cases, the Knowledge Hubs may conduct tailored technical assistance programmes, including training for representatives of the Parties and the development of locally relevant research and policy papers for a particular Party, as well as perform site visits to facilitate provision of technical assistance and meet with decision-makers. Such assistance could be provided on the spot or virtually, depending on the possibilities, the type of assistance needed and the overall context.

Provision of technical assistance and capacity-building can be accomplished through organizing conferences, expert meetings, and bilateral and multilateral technical meetings for the benefit of the Parties.

It is important that the Convention Secretariat collaborates with and coordinates the provision of such assistance with Knowledge Hubs and other partners, as appropriate, to ensure the highest efficiency of such support.

¹¹ https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/implementation-database/treaty_provisions/article-14

¹² <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/legalchallenges/news/new-mccabe-centre-paper-plain-packaging-wto-disputes>



The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Tobacco Taxation in January 2023 visited and assisted Panama.



The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Smokeless Tobacco in November 2019 assisted Myanmar, and the event was covered by the national media.

The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on International Cooperation, together with the Ministry of Health of Panama, organized a December 2017 workshop on the Guidelines for Implementation of Article 14 of the WHO FCTC, with participants from the Gambia, Maldives, Mauritania and Togo.¹³



A capacity-building (virtual) workshop was organized by the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub for Article 5.3, in collaboration with the Convention Secretariat, in December 2022 to support Parties in scaling up the implementation of recommendations from the Guidelines for Implementation of Article 5.3 of the Convention.

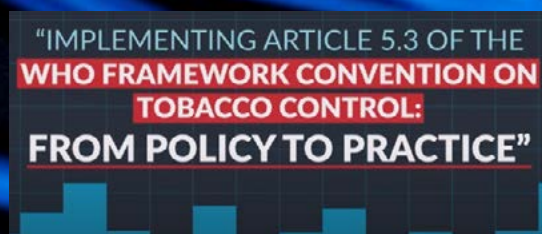
13 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/intcooperation/news/workshop-implementation-guidelines-fctcs-article-14>

(c) Promote and facilitate exchange of information and good practices

The Knowledge Hubs have taken advantage of global digitalization trends and the expansion of online information-sharing opportunities to carry out capacity-building initiatives and share knowledge, for example, through online training courses and e-learning tools.

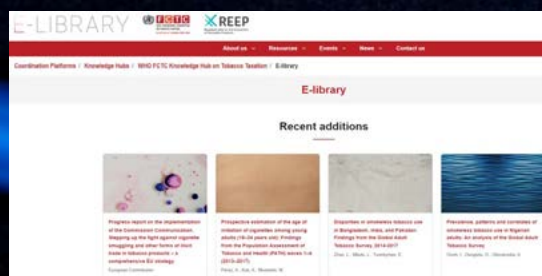
They also gather up-to-date information and evidence and share them openly through tailor-made digital databases, including e-libraries, developed by some of the Knowledge Hubs and hosted on their respective websites.

The Knowledge Hubs also develop various education products and deliver several types of learning events, such as seminars, workshops and webinars.



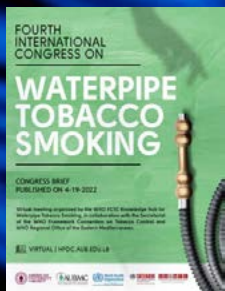
The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub for Article 5.3 has developed an e-learning course, on the essentials of protecting public health policies from tobacco industry interference.¹⁴

WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub for Articles 17 and 18 compiled an e-library containing resources on these articles of the Convention.¹⁵



An e-library on research and publications on tobacco taxation and illicit trade in tobacco products was launched by the The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Tobacco Taxation in 2019.¹⁶

14 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/TIInterference>
 15 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/alternativelivelihoods/e-library>
 16 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/tobacco-taxation/e-library>



The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub for Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking organizes international conferences to promote research and policies.¹⁷



The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Smokeless Tobacco conducted an expert meeting titled "Protecting youth from industry manipulation and preventing them from tobacco and nicotine use" on World No Tobacco Day 2020.

The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Smokeless Tobacco organized, in November 2019, an international meeting focusing on the banning of advertising, promotion and sponsorship of smokeless tobacco products.¹⁸



The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub for Article 5.3 organized a webinar in December 2020 to promote tobacco industry monitoring.¹⁹



The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Legal Challenges regularly conducts online training courses, such as this 2020 legal training course on law and noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).²⁰

17 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/wts/news/fourth-international-conference-waterpipe-tobacco-smoking-research>

18 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/slt/news/international-meeting-taps-ban-smokeless-tobacco>

19 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/IIInterference/news/promoting-tobacco-industry-monitoring-among-parties-who-fctc>

20 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/legalchallenges/news/mccabe-centre-hosts-first-ever-online-legal-training-course>

The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Legal Challenges conducted the Pacific Tobacco Control Workshop in March 2021 to support countries from the Western Pacific to meet their WHO FCTC obligations and reduce the burden of NCDs.²¹



The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Legal Challenges organized a November 2019 workshop focused on the effective use of law for NCD prevention, with a focus on tobacco control and WHO FCTC implementation.²²



The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub for Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking conducted a webinar on waterpipe smoking cessation on 31 May 2021 on the occasion of the World No Tobacco Day.²³



The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub for Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking organized, in November 2018, a workshop on "Waterpipe Tobacco Smoking Regulations and Challenges".²⁴



21 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/legalchallenges/news/workshop-provides-tools-progress-tobacco-control-pacific>
 22 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/legalchallenges/news/australia-inaugural-mccabe-centre-executive-workshop>
 23 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/wts/webinars>
 24 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/wts/workshops>

The eighth Workshop on Tobacco Taxation and the Economics of Tobacco Control was organized online in September 2022 by the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Tobacco Taxation.



The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on International Cooperation organized a December 2017 workshop on the enforcement of tobacco control regulations for smoke-free public places.²⁵

The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub for Public Awareness (in relation to Article 12 of the WHO FCTC) organized a June 2023 webinar on financing public awareness programmes and actions in tobacco control.²⁶



(d) Collaborate in dissemination of information, aligned with the communication efforts of the Convention Secretariat

Communication materials, such as brochures and publications, are produced by Knowledge Hubs in line with activities and deliverables agreed upon in their workplans and aligned, as appropriate, with communication efforts of the Convention Secretariat. Most of these materials are made available online on the Knowledge Hub websites.

25 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/intcooperation/news/workshop-tobacco-control-regulations-enforcement>

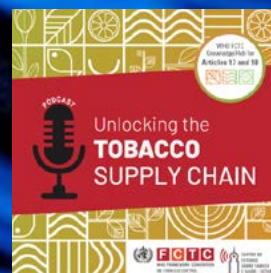
26 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/article12/news/webinar-financing-public-awareness-programmes-and-actions-tobacco>



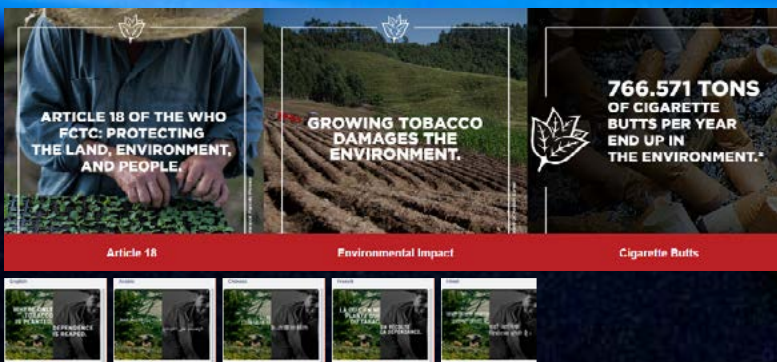
The e-updates that are published regularly by the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub for Article 5.3 contain information on the activities of the Hub and other news related to its field of expertise.



The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Surveillance publishes blogs on various topics that have a surveillance component.²⁷



Two seasons of a podcast have been published by the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub for Articles 17 and 18.²⁸



The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub for Articles 17 and 18 conducted, in 2022 and 2023, campaigns on tobacco and the environment and the promotion of alternative livelihoods for tobacco workers, with campaign materials available in various languages.²⁹



The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Tobacco Taxation has issued policy briefs, some in collaboration with other Knowledge Hubs, to support implementation work by the Parties.³⁰

27 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/surveillance/category/blogs>

28 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/alternativelivelihoods/podcasts>

29 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/alternativelivelihoods/news/who-fctc-knowledge-hub-articles-17-and-18-launched>

30 <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/tobacco-taxation/public-resources>

WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs and their presence on social media³¹

WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Surveillance – Helsinki, Finland

- X: @FCTC_SurvKH
- LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/who-fctc-knowledge-hub-on-surveillance](https://www.linkedin.com/company/who-fctc-knowledge-hub-on-surveillance)

WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub for Public Awareness (in relation to Article 12)

- X: @SantePubliqueFr
- Facebook: [facebook.com/santepubliquefrance](https://www.facebook.com/santepubliquefrance)
- LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/sante-publique-france/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/sante-publique-france/)

WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Tobacco Taxation – Cape Town, South Africa

- X: @Tobaccoecon

WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on International Cooperation – Montevideo, Uruguay

WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub for Articles 17 and 18 – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

- X: @FCTC_KH_FIOCRUZ
- Facebook: [facebook.com/FCTC.tobacco.environment](https://www.facebook.com/FCTC.tobacco.environment)
- Instagram: [instagram.com/fctc.tobacco.environment](https://www.instagram.com/fctc.tobacco.environment)

31 Some Knowledge Hubs use social media accounts of the hosting entity.

**WHO FCTC Knowledge
Hub for Waterpipe Tobacco
Smoking – Beirut, Lebanon**

- X: @WaterpipeKH
- Instagram: water pipe smoking.kh
- Youtube: @waterpipe tobacco smokingwho5671
- Facebook: facebook.com/ waterpipeKH

**WHO FCTC Knowledge
Hub for Article 5.3
– Bangkok, Thailand**

- Facebook: facebook.com/whofctckhart5.3
- LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/who-fctc-knowledge-hub-for-article-5-3/

**WHO FCTC Knowledge
Hub on Smokeless
Tobacco – Noida, India**

- X: @GKH_SLT

**WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub
on Legal Challenges
– Melbourne, Australia**

- X: @McCabe_Centre
- LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/mccabe-centre/

(e) Support the Convention Secretariat

Knowledge Hubs collaborate with the Convention Secretariat in performing a diverse range of activities aimed at providing the best support to the Parties to the WHO FCTC. One of them is the regular meeting of Knowledge Hub managers, which aims at increasing collaboration and coordination among the Hubs, as well as the efficiency of their work. The Convention Secretariat also works with Knowledge Hubs in hosting meetings and other types of activities.

The Knowledge Hubs also contribute to the analysis of information provided by the Parties through their implementation reports, and the development of the biennial global progress reports on implementation of the WHO FCTC.

In addition, the Knowledge Hubs provide support and technical input in their respective areas of expertise to the Convention Secretariat, as requested, on an ad hoc manner.



The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Surveillance hosted a meeting in December 2019 of a group of international experts to discuss the monitoring of Global Strategy indicators.



The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Surveillance hosted, on their premises at the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, the sixth meeting of the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs (September 2023).³²



The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs have been contributing to the analysis of data submitted by the Parties on their progress in implementation of the WHO FCTC, and to the development of editions of the Global Progress Report on Implementation of the WHO FCTC.³³



The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub on Legal Challenges co-hosted with the Norwegian Cancer Society, WHO and the Convention Secretariat a November 2022 workshop Law and Tobacco Control: Global and European perspectives.³⁴

³² [https://fctc.who.int/newsroom/events/item/2023/09/25/default-calendar/6th-meeting-of-the-who-framework-convention-on-tobacco-control-\(who-fctc\)-knowledge-hubs](https://fctc.who.int/newsroom/events/item/2023/09/25/default-calendar/6th-meeting-of-the-who-framework-convention-on-tobacco-control-(who-fctc)-knowledge-hubs)

³³ <https://fctc.who.int/who-fctc/reporting/global-progress-reports>

³⁴ <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/kh/legalchallenges/news/mccabe-centre-collaborates-norwegian-cancer-society-who-and>

3.

How to request technical assistance from the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs

One of the most critical functions of the Knowledge Hubs is to provide technical assistance to Parties in their implementation of the Convention. However, for this assistance to materialize, Parties must request the assistance they need from the Knowledge Hubs through the options described in this section.

The potential role of the WHO FCTC focal point

The WHO FCTC focal point designated by a Party is the main contact person responsible for facilitating WHO FCTC implementation and for communicating information about that implementation both within and outside the country.³⁵ The WHO FCTC focal point could have a broad work portfolio, varying from country to country; eventually, the focal point could be viewed as the main person responsible for promoting, coordinating and, as appropriate, advocating for the implementation of the requirements of the WHO FCTC in the respective Party.

In cases in which technical assistance is needed by the Party for the implementation of various measures under the Convention, the focal point could be the best positioned to request such assistance externally to carry out the needed work. One provider of such assistance could be the Knowledge Hubs.

The scope and distribution of responsibilities between the Knowledge Hubs and the Convention Secretariat – also in assisting the Parties – are set out in the internal guide for operation of the Knowledge Hubs and in the respective MOU, as well as in the terms of reference and workplan agreed upon with each Knowledge Hub by the Convention Secretariat and the hosting institution or entity.

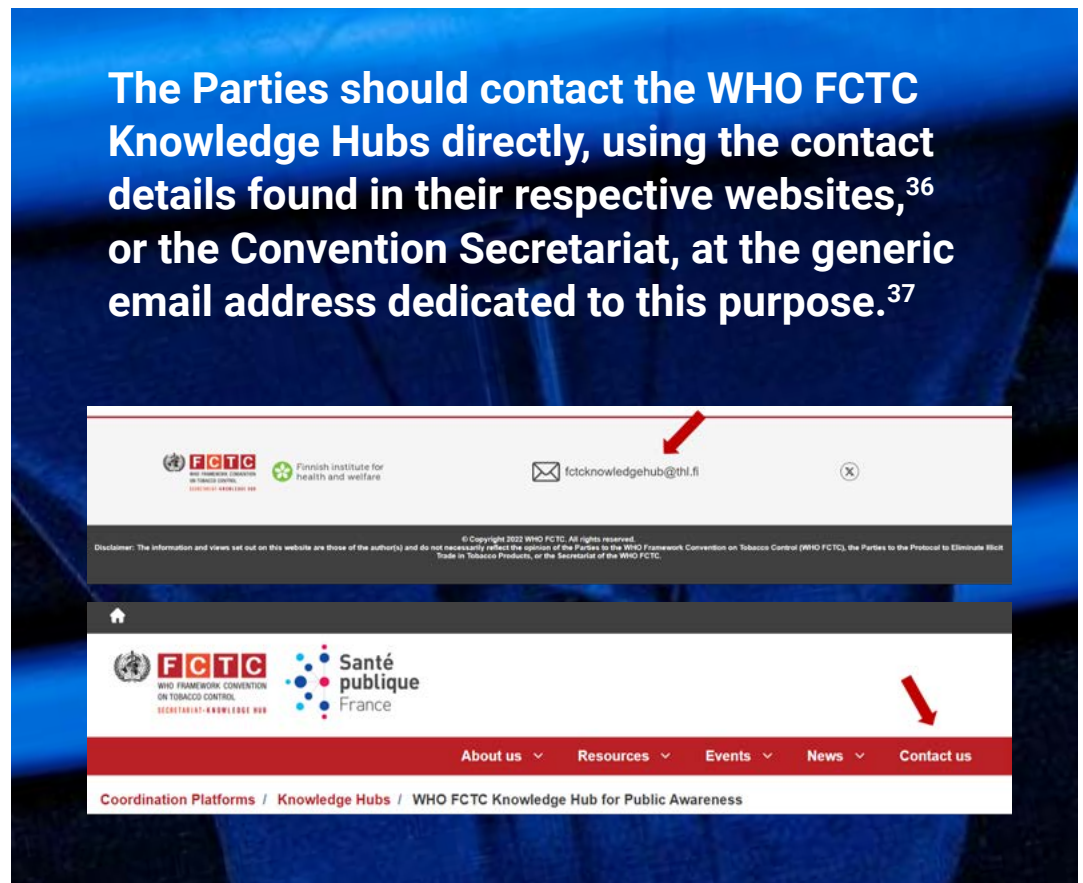
³⁵ Information kit for the WHO FCTC technical focal points. Convention Secretariat, 2020. https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/336183?search-result=true&query=Information+kit&scope=&rpp=10&sort_by=score&order=desc. See section 6.9 on the "Liaison and coordination with the WHO FCTC Secretariat's Knowledge Hubs".

Requesting and receiving assistance

By email

Requests for the services of the Knowledge Hubs should be transmitted to the respective Knowledge Hub directly³⁶ or through the Convention Secretariat³⁷ by the WHO FCTC focal point, or by representatives of other government departments of the requesting Party in consultation with the relevant focal point. In cases in which Knowledge Hubs receive a request directly from a Party, the Knowledge Hubs should notify the Convention Secretariat so that they can coordinate and further consult with the Convention Secretariat in providing a response.

The Parties should contact the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs directly, using the contact details found in their respective websites,³⁶ or the Convention Secretariat, at the generic email address dedicated to this purpose.³⁷



The image contains two screenshots of website footers. The top screenshot shows the footer of the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare website, featuring the FCTC logo, the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare logo, and the email address fctcknowledgehub@thi.fi. A red arrow points to the email address. The bottom screenshot shows the footer of the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub for Public Awareness website, featuring the FCTC logo, the Santé publique France logo, and a navigation menu with links for About us, Resources, Events, News, and Contact us. A red arrow points to the Contact us link. Below the navigation menu, the text 'Coordination Platforms / Knowledge Hubs / WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub for Public Awareness' is visible.

Knowledge Hubs may independently respond to some specific requests for information by Parties; however, the Hubs should inform the Convention Secretariat of the request and of the information provided. Such information requests may be responded independently to only if they relate to:

- sharing publicly available information, experience and practices from other Parties, including reference to the implementation reports submitted by the Parties in accordance with Article 21 (Reporting and exchange of information) of the Convention;

³⁶ Utilizing the contact details published on the footer of the website of the individual Knowledge Hubs, or through the “Contact us” form available on each Knowledge Hub’s website.

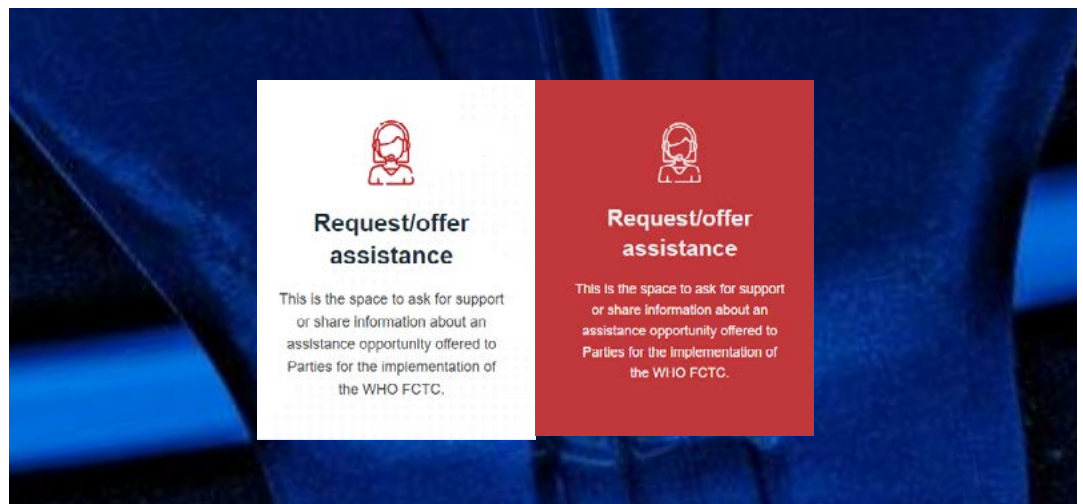
³⁷ By writing to the following generic email address: fctc_kh@who.int

- sharing information linked to the area of expertise of the Knowledge Hub, in keeping with the provisions of the WHO FCTC (including relevant guidelines for implementation); and
- unambiguous information that does not need input from or consideration by the Convention Secretariat, such as information publicly and officially endorsed, or validated previously by the Convention Secretariat for requests similar in scope and nature.

Through the WHO FCTC Coordination Platform

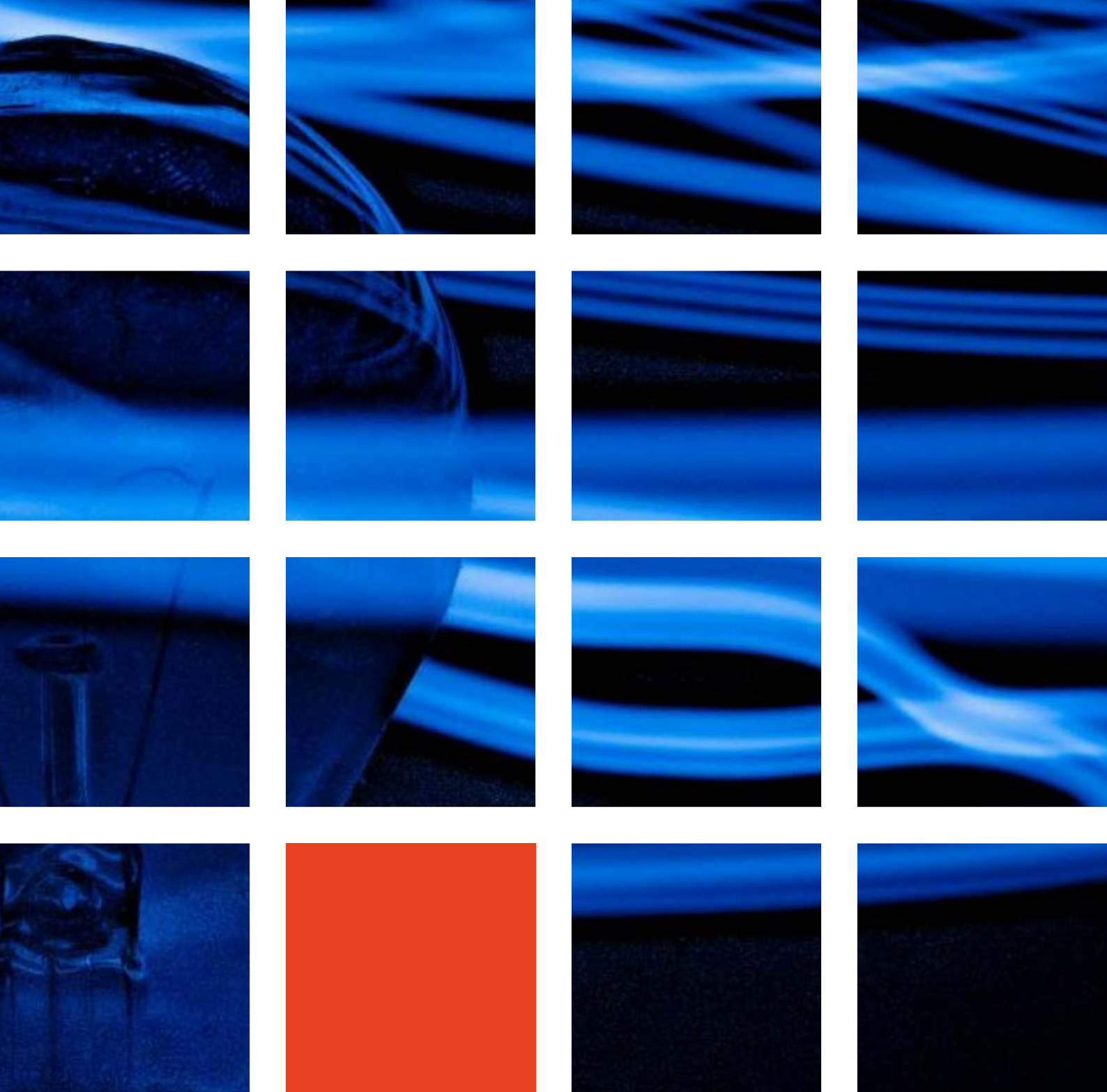
Instead of sending an email, the Parties can complete a “Request assistance” form available in the WHO FCTC Coordination Platform.³⁸ By clicking on the icon which appears as presented below, a window will open and the Party will be requested to provide information on its identified need and its request.³⁹

This information, once submitted, will be reviewed by the Convention Secretariat, which will decide how to best provide the requested assistance to the Party. The WHO FCTC Knowledge Hubs could be called upon by the Convention Secretariat to provide the requested assistance.



³⁸ <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/coordination-platform>

³⁹ <https://extranet.who.int/fctcapps/fctcapps/fctc/request-offer-assistance-form>



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