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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Communication regarding the Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC and the Third Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products

Delegations will find in Annex the Communication regarding the Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC and the Third Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products

WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL

PROTOCOL TO ELIMINATE ILLICIT TRADE IN TOBACCO PRODUCTS

CS/NV/23/20

Communication regarding the Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC and the Third Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products

The Convention Secretariat, which serves as the secretariat of both the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) and of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, presents its compliments to the Parties to the WHO FCTC and to the Protocol.

At the direction of the Bureau elected by the Ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP9) to the WHO FCTC and the Bureau elected by the Second session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP2) to the Protocol, the Convention Secretariat would like to communicate the following information.

By letter dated 8 November 2023, the COP10 and MOP3 host country, Panama, informed the Convention Secretariat that, in light of the current situation that the country is facing and its potential impact on the security of delegates and the conduct of international meetings, it is no longer feasible to convene the Tenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) and the Third session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP3) from 20-25 November 2023 and from 27-30 November 2023. Panama further requested the collaboration of the Convention Secretariat in postponing COP10 and MOP3 to the beginning of 2024.

Following that communication, and taking into account decisions FCTC/COP9(11) and FCTC/MOP2(15), as well as Rule 4.2 and Rule 24ter of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties and of the Meeting of the Parties, the Bureaus elected by COP9 and MOP2, in consultation with Panama and the Convention Secretariat, decided during a joint meeting held on 9 November 2023 to postpone COP10 and MOP3.

The COP10 and MOP3 will be held in person as early as possible in 2024 at dates to be confirmed.

In the interim, the Convention Secretariat was requested to consider how to ensure continuity of operations of the Convention Secretariat in respect of the Workplan and Budget of the COP and MOP for the financial period 2024-2025, possibly through the organization of a de minimis virtual session of COP10 and MOP3. Details in that regard will be provided as soon as possible.

The Convention Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Parties to the WHO FCTC and to the Protocol the assurance of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 09 November 2023

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