



# SUMMARY OF THE PROTOCOL TO ELIMINATE ILLICIT TRADE IN TOBACCO PRODUCTS

The Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products is a legally binding treaty adopted under the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC). It seeks to eliminate all forms of illicit trade in tobacco products through effective national and international measures.

Adopted in 2012 and entering into force on 25 September 2018, the Protocol establishes comprehensive legal and technical measures to protect public health, recover lost revenues, and combat organized crime.

The key components of the protocol are:



## Securing the Supply Chain

- Mandatory licensing of manufacturers, importers, exporters, and distributors of tobacco and production equipment.
- Implementation of tracking and tracing systems within five years for cigarettes and ten years for other tobacco products.
- Enforced recordkeeping and control over online sales, duty-free transactions, and free-trade zones.
- Clear obligations for due diligence, product marking, and secure logistics across the entire supply chain.



## Legal Enforcement

- Clear definition of illicit acts, including production and trade without tax compliance.
- Use of civil, administrative, or criminal sanctions, including confiscation and environmentally safe destruction of seized products.
- Authorization for special investigative techniques and capacity development in enforcement agencies.



## International Cooperation

- Information exchange and seizure reporting among countries.
- Mutual legal and administrative assistance for investigations, prosecutions, and extraditions.
- Technical support and training to build national and regional capacity.



## Governance and industry safeguards

The Protocol is governed by the meeting of the parties (MOP), with operational support from the WHO FCTC Secretariat. The Protocol requires maximum transparency and prohibits delegating enforcement responsibilities to the tobacco industry.