



DECISIONS THAT AFFECT MILLIONS

HARM REDUCTION AND RIGHTS AT STAKE

Geneva, November 2025

What is the COP?

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the governing body of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). It is composed of all Parties to the Convention. Its role: to review the implementation of the Convention, and to adopt decisions, protocols, annexes, and amendments. In theory, it should guide public health and harm reduction, but many decisions are made behind closed doors.





How should it work?

A hand in a dark suit sleeve holds a white rectangular sign with the word 'YES' written in large, bold, green capital letters.

YES

- OPEN AND TRANSPARENT FORUM: SCIENTISTS, CIVIL SOCIETY, AND NICOTINE USERS.
- DECISIONS BASED ON EVIDENCE ABOUT TOBACCO USE, VAPING, AND LESS HARMFUL ALTERNATIVES.
- PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND EDUCATION ABOUT RISKS.
- THE COP SHOULD BE A SPACE FOR DIALOGUE AND PREVENTION, NOT SECRECY AND CORRUPTION.

What really happens

- TOTAL SECRECY: SECRET DEBATES AND OPAQUE DECISIONS..
- CORRUPTION AND LOBBYING INFLUENCING POLICIES.
- IGNORING SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE: MEASURES ARE TAKEN THAT CRIMINALIZE AND HARM INSTEAD OF PROTECT.



IGNORED

Harm reduction ignored





- **HARM REDUCTION = MINIMIZING RISKS, NOT PROMOTING USE.**
- **LESS HARMFUL ALTERNATIVES LIKE SAFE VAPING, SNUS OR HEATED TOBACCO ARE BLOCKED OR UNDERESTIMATED.**
- **MILLIONS CONTINUE SMOKING, EXPOSING THEMSELVES TO PREVENTABLE DISEASES, WHILE A FEW BENEFIT.**

Consequences of mismanagement

- HIGHER MORTALITY AND PREVENTABLE DISEASES
- CONSUMERS' RIGHTS VIOLATED
- THE FUTURE OF MILLIONS JEOPARDIZED BY OPAQUE DECISIONS AND POLITICAL CONVENIENCE





The COP that WE NEED

- TRANSPARENT AND PARTICIPATORY.
- BASED ON SCIENCE AND HARM REDUCTION ACROSS ALL FORMS OF NICOTINE.
- EDUCATION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
- LISTEN TO THOSE WHO LIVE THE REALITY OF USE, NOT JUST THOSE SEEKING CONTROL OR PROFIT.



The WHO recognizes that the right to health is **NOT A PRIVILEGE, BUT A UNIVERSAL RIGHT.**

Every person has the right to clear, accessible, and science-based information to make free decisions about their body and well-being. Public health only advances when evidence, freedom of choice, and human dignity are respected.

The health of millions cannot depend on a few. COP11 must prioritize science, harm reduction, and human rights, including in nicotine.