



## **ASIA TOBACCO FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS**

**JAKARTA 21 JUNE 2010**

The Participants of the Asia Tobacco Forum,

Representing large tobacco growing communities of over 4 million farmers from participating Asian countries;

Recalling the important contribution of tobacco growing to the agricultural sector of the economy, rural employment and fiscal revenues;

Recognizing the significant present and future demand for tobacco use among millions of adult smokers,

Determined to protect the livelihood of tobacco farmers, workers and their families;

Coming together at the inaugural Asia Tobacco Forum in Jakarta on 21-22 June 2010 convened by Aliansi Masyarakat Tembakau Indonesia (AMTI) and the International Tobacco Growers Association (ITGA);

Desiring to speak with one united voice for the common interest of tobacco growers across Asia;

1. OPPOSES the current draft guidelines recommended under Articles 9 and 10 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control that seeks to ban a wide range of ingredients that are essential components of traditional tobacco products that are used by millions of adult smokers across the world;
2. EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN about the fact that the recommendations formulated in the draft guidelines occur in a vacuum of scientific evidence and with a lack of valid country experience to support their effectiveness;

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3. EXPRESSES CONCERN that the prohibition or restriction on many tobacco product ingredients is not only arbitrary and unscientific, but will also result in the *de facto* prohibition of entire categories of traditional tobacco products and will have devastating impact on income, jobs and livelihoods for millions of individuals involved in tobacco growing across Asia;
4. DECLARES UNEASE about the lack of transparency and the complete absence of any form of consultation with tobacco growers' organizations and other affected stakeholders in developing of tobacco regulation guidelines under the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control;
5. RECOGNIZES that the draft guidelines recommend a legislative approach that violates international trade rules;
6. URGES Governments to reject the current draft guidelines and to request the FCTC Working Group on articles 9 and 10 to continue its work around the identification of objective scientific standards that will allow formulating regulatory recommendations in the future;
7. CALLS UPON all Asian Governments to urge other governments to reject the current draft guidelines;
8. URGES Governments to reject any initiatives to marginalize and exclude the tobacco growing sector from discussion on tobacco control measures;
9. CALLS UPON Governments to take a balanced approach to tobacco control, taking into account the need to protect employment in the tobacco growing sector, the need to safeguard fiscal revenues, the need to curb the illicit trade in tobacco products, the need to promote public health, and the decision of adult smokers with regards to tobacco use;



10. REMINDS all Governments to adhere to regional and international trade rules to promote free and fair trade in tobacco products;
11. CALLS UPON all tobacco growers to exercise their political rights to actively participate in national and international efforts to develop tobacco control measures that will accommodate the interests of the tobacco growers, adult smokers, and their national communities;
12. DECIDES to remain seized on the matter.