



## **DECLARATION**

The International Tobacco Growers' Association (ITGA) and the Cooperativa Tabacalera de Misiones (CTM) held the Latin American Tobacco Forum in Buenos Aires, on July 14, 2010;

The participants, representing the tobacco growing communities of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic;

Are speaking out in unison with one voice, to protect the livelihood of the tobacco growers and workers, their families and the good of their communities;

And realizing the importance of tobacco production on the countries' economies as the greatest source of jobs in the agricultural sector and the highest generator of tax revenue;

By remembering that any restrictive regulation of tobacco production must be measured by its impact on the growers and workers within the tobacco industry;

Thus, remembering the important present and future demand for tobacco among millions of adult smokers. The participants:

1. **FIRMLY OPPOSE** the recommendations proposed in Articles 9 and 10 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which suggest the prohibition of all ingredients used in the tobacco products, which is not only arbitrary and has no scientific credibility, but actually constitutes a prohibition of entire categories of traditional tobacco products which would only promote their sale on the black market.
2. **THEY WARN** that a prohibition of the ingredients would destroy tobacco production, affecting the livelihood of millions of tobacco production workers in Latin America and throughout the world.
3. **THEY EMPHASIZE** the lack of dialogue with tobacco production workers and other participating sectors in the development of these recommendations which, besides drastically affecting their livelihood, would have no health benefit;

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4. THEY INVITE the Governments to reject those recommendations, as they are not grounded on scientific, objective and demonstrable evidence, which would serve the purpose of reducing the hazardous effects of smoking;
5. THEY URGE the Latin American governments to unite and to oppose these recommendations of the WHO and the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which excludes the primary sector from discussion regarding the tobacco control measures.
6. THEY URGE the Governments and Legislatures to adopt a sensible focus regarding tobacco control, taking into account the need to protect the sources of employment within the sector; to safeguard the tax revenue; to oppose the black market of tobacco products; to promote public health, and to respect individual rights;
7. THEY SUGGEST that all governments adhere to the standards of regional and international commerce, to promote the free and fair commerce of tobacco products with acceptable prices, characteristics and quality for adult smokers worldwide. This will permit predictability and stability within the realm of employment and incomes in the primary sector, and in its corresponding value chain.
8. THEY URGE all growers, manufacturers, retailers, legal authorities, and other governmental bodies to exercise their political rights to participate actively in the national and international efforts, which are destined to developing tobacco control measures which promote the health objectives of a Nation, as well as the legitimate interests of the tobacco growers, sector workers, retailers and adult smokers.
9. THEY REMIND EVERYONE of the efforts developed worldwide to recover personal liberties and the right to production, employment, legal and dignified work, access to education, health and information, avoiding all types of discrimination regarding individual choice.
10. THEY DECIDE to maintain a watchful attitude regarding this.

Signed by the International Association of Tobacco Growers

Signed by the Representatives of Argentina

Signed by the Representatives of Brazil

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Signed by the Representatives of Colombia

Signed by the Representatives of the Dominican Republic

Signed by the Representatives of Ecuador