

ITGA wrap up – COP8 Geneva – October 1 to 6, 2018

1. Delegations involved in the ITGA activities at COP8

- ⇒ Brazil (Afubra): Romeu Schneider and Marco Dornelles
- ⇒ Malawi (TAMA): Abiel Kalima Banda and Felix Thole
- ⇒ Zambia (TAZ): Phonto Mumbi
- ⇒ US: Daniel Green
- ⇒ ITGA Secretariat: António Abrunhosa and Mercedes Vázquez

2. Attended meetings

- ⇒ Meeting at FAO – Director Mrs Carolyn Birkett, Policy Officer Celso Mendes de Carvalho
- ⇒ Meeting at the Malawian Permanent Mission in Geneva:
Ambassador/Permanent Representative Robert Dufter Salama,
Malawian Delegation to COP8
- ⇒ Meeting at the ILO: Deputy Director General for Policy Mrs Deborah Greenfield, Senior Specialist for child labour fundamental principles and rights, Benjamin Smith, Deputy Director Governance and tripartism Department, Kamram Fannizadeh
- ⇒ Meeting at the Zambia Permanent Mission – Counsellor of health, Dr Francis Bwalya

3. Other activities

- ⇒ Wrap up meetings of the Secretariat with the Delegations



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- ⇒ Press Conference
- ⇒ Daily Newsletter to members with COP updates

4. Meetings summary

October 3, 2018

Meeting at the FAO

- ⇒ **ITGA inputs to the meeting:** presentation of Delegates and whom they represent. ITGA material with main tobacco growing countries' infographics. Studies about the barriers of crop substitution. ITGA Tobacco Courier
- ⇒ **ITGA background;**
- ⇒ **Growers perspectives and challenges:** the need for proper projects on diversification; the issue of exclusion, the need for growers to be involved especially on article 17; the global drop in demand, lack of science based research on diversification, FCTC proposal on the creation of an UN task force, growers willingness to participate actively in any sound project offering their expertise and knowledge, the example of the buyout in the US as a template to replicate in other parts of the world.
- ⇒ **Meetings take out:** FAO agreed to open line of communications. FAO was informed about almost all the issues that we brought up (even the ILO Governing Body issue and its connections with ECLT). FAO understand that no transition can be made from tobacco without



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growers' inclusiveness; FAO will remain open to future collaboration with growers.

⇒ **Follow up to this meeting:**

ITGA Secretariat to write a letter to the officers we met at FAO in Geneva to explore the opportunity to connect our associations with FAO projects at regional level.

Members' Associations to engage with FAO at regional level to provide information about the sector

ITGA Secretariat will provide clear indications of a plan to be followed in due time

October 4, 2018

Meeting at the Malawian Permanent Mission in Geneva

⇒ **ITGA inputs to the meeting:** presentation of Delegates and whom they represent. Letter with ITGA background and a briefing of the market situation. Tobacco growers' talking points on discussions about art 17 of the WHO FCTC

⇒ **Growers perspectives and challenges:** Exclusion; FCTC background and main articles affecting tobacco growers; especial focus on article 17&18; drop in demand; upcoming problems that will mainly affect Malawi and Zimbabwe due to their dependency on tobacco; comments about Malawi ratification to the FCTC (ITGA support the idea because it will take the country to be able to defend itself from the inside and to support other strong positions from the Africa Region as it is the case of Zimbabwe); growers pleas to be part of the discussions; FCTC proposal to create an UN agencies task force and the important role of tobacco growers in this new alignment;



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Environmental issues and accountability for it; child labour and ILO. FCTC mandate for research on complementary crops and what it has been done on this regard since the treaty entry into force.

⇒ **Meetings take out:** The Ambassador was very sensitive to all the issues raised at the meeting. In order to have a complete picture, the Delegation of Malawi to the COP joined the meeting. Malawi is preparing to ratify the FCTC and participate in the next COP meeting. Issues related with deforestation were not real in the case of Malawi and the reports shared at the FCTC meetings have many inaccuracies. The Ambassador offered his help to try to contact Director General of the WHO, Mr Ghebreyesus, and pass our message to him.

⇒ **Follow up to this meeting:**

ITGA shared the focal points of growers' discussion about the lack of inclusion with the Ambassador and a briefing about the market situation.

ITGA Secretariat to write a letter to the Ambassador to find out if there is any success on his meeting with the WHO Director General

We will have to wait for a feedback on this regard.

ITGA Secretariat will provide clear indications of a plan to be followed in due time

October 5, 2018

Meeting at the International at the World Bank (WB)

⇒ **ITGA inputs to the meeting:** presentation of Delegates and whom they represent. Letter with ITGA background and a briefing of the market situation. Tobacco growers' talking points on discussions about art 17 of the WHO FCTC. ITGA material with main tobacco



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growing countries' infographics. Studies about the barriers of crop substitution. ITGA Tobacco Courier

⇒ **Growers' perspectives and challenges:** ITGA explained the danger of more poverty involving tobacco growers' communities in countries like Malawi and Zimbabwe because their high rate of dependency on tobacco. The insistence of the FCTC to block the sector from any ongoing conversation inside the Convention prevented the treaty to advance in issues such diversification and pilot projects and more specifically on articles 17&18. A proper plan has to be put in place and the UN agencies together with tobacco growers and their association need to work together. Growers are the only one with no way out and the market is showing clear signs of drop in demand due to legislation and new products.

⇒ **Meetings take out:** WB officer in charged, Mr Verbeek, was aware of the economic situation in Malawi and Zambia because he worked in these countries some years ago. He understood the size of the problem and was very sensitive to issues especially when talking about the case of Malawi with millions of people depending on the tobacco supply chain. He explained that there is an internal policy that prevents any UN agency from collaborating with the tobacco industry but the case was different when talking about growers and the extreme situation of sending them to poverty without providing help. The approach, he advised, has to done in that way and at regional level. Mr Verbeek kindly offered his help to open line of communications with his colleagues at regional level and to make a first approach to them in order open the doors for future meeting of the growers with the World Bank at regional level.

⇒ **Follow up to this meeting:**

ITGA Secretariat to write a letter to the officers Mr Verbeek providing him with critical countries to start the engagement with WB and to



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explore the opportunity to connect our associations with WB at regional level.

Members' Associations to engage with WB at regional level to provide information about the sector

ITGA Secretariat will provide clear indications of a plan to be followed in due time

October 5, 2018

Meeting at the Zambian Permanent Mission in Geneva

- ⇒ **ITGA inputs to the meeting:** presentation of Delegates and whom they represent. Letter with ITGA background and a briefing of the market situation.

- ⇒ **Growers perspectives and challenges:** Exclusion; FCTC background and main articles affecting tobacco growers; especial focus on article 17&18; drop in demand; Environmental issues and accountability for it. New tobacco products (heat not burn)

- ⇒ **Meetings take out:** Dr Francis Bwalya expressed his concerns about the lack of agreement inside the Zambian Delegation. Zambia will not promote the end of tobacco growing for social and economical reasons unless a comprehensive plan is put together with no risk to growers and their communities. Zambia supports the idea of an inter-agency task force because all the parties need to be involved in this process. Zambia is fond on the education of people as one of the main tool to prevent health issues related with tobacco. Zambia will implement the treaty from the health perspective to help people curve tobacco products derived illnesses. A plea was made by ITGA



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for the Zambian Embassy to try to take the message of growers to the WHO and the FCTC.

⇒ **Follow up to this meeting:**

ITGA Secretariat to write a letter to the Ambassador to find if a connection can be made with the initiative in the Malawian Embassy to take growers' message to the WHO Director General.

October 2, 4 and 5, 2018

Meeting of Brazilian Delegates (Afubra, Sinditabaco, Sinditabaco Bahia, Amprotabaco - Venâncio Aires and São Lourenço Mayors, FETAG – RS, FETAESC – SC, FENTIFUMO, ABIFUMO) with the Brazilian Embassy in Geneva (Maria Nazareth Farani Azevedo, Consul-General of Brazil to Switzerland)

⇒ **Afubra inputs to the meeting:** Annual Report of the Association

⇒ **Growers perspectives and challenges:**

(October 2)

- Transparency of the convention: how have the Brazilian representatives positioned themselves?
- Articles 17 and 18: on diversification, the Mayors are opposed to allocate more taxes to tobacco to finance diversification programs, because this account will fall to the municipalities.
- The numbers and figures that are reported on tobacco are different from those that Afubra has, reason why the Association gave a copy of its Annual Report.
- Transparency of the Convention - there was no previous debate with the industry in preparation for the conference: Brazilian growers did not have prior access. The Brazilian Government must recognize the tobacco sector as an ally and not an opponent.
- Employees from the tobacco sector feel threatened by the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.
- Everything that is being discussed in the Convention ultimately falls on the tobacco grower.



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(October 4)

- What is the position of the Brazilian Government on the work that the sector has been doing with the ILO in Brazil?
- Did Afubra request the participation of the growers' representatives, by Afubra itself and the Federations of the three states?
- The importance of the partnership with the ILO, which has had positive results and has been reducing child labor in Brazil.
- Interest that resources for diversification are not mistaken for a tax, but similar to what has been done to the division of the Royalties of the pre-salt in the oil exploration.
- On the diversification programs of the Brazilian government: Does the Government have information on the profile of growers to develop the program?

(October 5)

The information brought by the Brazilian delegation did not have news, as many subjects were still under discussion; only in the final report and after voting on Saturday, would we have access to the information through the official conference reports that would be made available on the site.

⇒ **Meetings take out:**

The Ambassador reported the opening of the conference citing that we had access, and that the Brazilian representatives had proposed that it would be public, but with control, which did not prevail.

The Ambassador classified the Illicit Trade Protocol announced by the conference as important and positive and mentioned the Brazilian advances with the objectives of the Framework Convention given in the speech of the Brazilian Minister at the opening of the conference.

She also cited Articles 17 and 18 and Agenda 2030.

The Ambassador said that the dialogue between the tobacco sector and the official representatives of the Brazilian Government is important and that this approximation should be made effectively in Brazil.