



# Philippine College of Surgeons

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## **PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS STATEMENT:**

### **ON THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION'S STATEMENT IN THE 9<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP9) OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL (WHO FCTC)**

#### **Introduction**

In the 9th Conference of Parties (COP9) of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) in Geneva, Switzerland, held November 8-13, 2021, the Philippine delegation released statements promoting the interest of the tobacco industry, including those of related products such as vape and heated tobacco. <https://verafiles.org/articles/philippine-government-promotes-tobacco-industry-interests-gl>

The delegation also gave importance to the industry's contribution to public health funding through the "sin taxes" collected from the sale of tobacco products.

The Department of Health, which was not part of this year's Philippine delegation, opposed and dissociated from the Philippine delegation's pro-tobacco industry statements given during the above-mentioned conference. (source: <https://doh.gov.ph/press-release/DOH-OPPOSES-AND-DISSOCIATES-FROM-STATEMENT-OF-PH-DELEGATION-IN-FCTC-COP9>)

#### **PCS STATEMENT**

**The Philippine College of Surgeons believes that the statements given by the Philippine delegation are erroneous and have no scientific basis.**

**The PCS is one with the DOH and other medical organizations in the promotion of public health and the prevention of tobacco-related diseases. It reiterates that the use of and exposure to tobacco products, including heated tobacco and vapor products are harmful to the health of the Filipino people.**

**The protection of public health and the prevention of disease should always remain to be the priority over any monetary gains from the collection of sin taxes. The additional funding for health that is contributed by taxes from the sale of tobacco products does not outweigh the cost of tobacco-related diseases.**

**BOR Approved**

November 15, 2021