



International Institute for Legislative Affairs

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PRESS RELEASE

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RE: CALL FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE PROTOCOL TO ELIMINATE ILLICIT TRADE IN TOBACCO PRODUCTS BY THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

The National Assembly, in **December 2018** unanimously agreed to the ratification, without any reservations, of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products (also known as Illicit Trade Protocol- ITP) echoing the overwhelming support of the Government of Kenya for taking the necessary actions towards adoption of the World Health Organization-led Protocol geared towards strengthening tobacco control interventions.

Months down the line, the country is falling behind in taking the necessary steps towards the conclusion of the ratification process as spelt out in Section 9 of the Treaty making and ratification Act, 2012. We are concerned that this delay is negatively impacting Kenya's participation in National and Global initiatives to effectively control illicit tobacco products as part of overall tobacco control measures. The delay is also a stain in Kenya's impressive record as a global leader in implementation of effective controls for illicit tobacco products, which it has done so far through the Electronic Goods Management System (EGMS).

The Protocol to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco was adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) at its fifth session (COP 5) in Seoul, Korea in 2012. The objective of the ITP is to eliminate all forms of illicit trade in tobacco products in line with Article 15 of the WHO FCTC. Besides providing for an effective and standard track and trace system through which tobacco products can be monitored; the protocol provides for inter- country cooperation and a global mechanism for sharing of sensitive information for the purpose of effective control of illicit tobacco products. Kenya signed the Protocol on 29th May 2013 but is yet to ratify. The protocol came into force in 2018 and had its first Meeting of Parties (MOP 1) in Geneva, Switzerland in October 2018.

Ends

About IILA

The International Institute for Legislative Affairs (IILA) is a not-for-profit organization that offers technical support to government departments, Members of Parliament and other stakeholders in the legislative process in terms of research for policy lobbying, legislation drafting and capacity building on various thematic areas including tobacco control. IILA has worked on tobacco control for over 10 years.

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