

DECLARATION

More than 100 leading scientists, policy makers, academics, and public health advocates from 18 countries across five continents convened in Abu Dhabi to review the evidence and recommend actions to curb the waterpipe tobacco pandemic. The following findings and recommendations were issued on October 23, 2013:

1. Waterpipe smoking has become a global epidemic, especially among youth.
2. As with cigarettes, waterpipe smoking is harmful and addictive.
3. Secondhand waterpipe smoke is harmful to everyone exposed, especially children and other vulnerable individuals.
4. Education, mass media, and other approaches should be harnessed immediately to communicate the dangers of waterpipe smoking; especially to deglamorize and correct misperceptions about the water filtration process.
5. Policies to stop the global spread of waterpipe tobacco smoking are urgent public health priorities; especially support and evaluation of programs that prevent youth initiation and encourage smoking cessation.
6. Urgent policy priorities include a ban on flavored waterpipe products and specific inclusion of waterpipe smoking in clean indoor air regulations.
7. Other important policy priorities include more effective warning labels, increasing taxes, restricting access to youth, and eliminating waterpipe tobacco product advertising and marketing.