

- While the EU wants the treaty to be legally binding, the U.S., Brazil and India have expressed reservations about the same. The **legal nature of the treaty is yet to be defined**.
- Treaty only provides **recommendations** for tackling a particular issue.

Article 19 of the WHO Constitution

- It gives World Health Assembly the **authority to adopt conventions or agreements on matters of health**.
 - A two-third majority is needed to adopt such conventions or agreements.
- WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control was set up under Article 19 and it came into force in 2005.

Bucharest Nine

- The Bucharest Nine or Bucharest Format, often abbreviated as the B9, was founded on November 4, 2015 and takes its name from Bucharest, the capital of Romania.
- It is a group of nine NATO countries in Eastern Europe that became part of the US-led military alliance after the end of the Cold War.
- All members of the B9 are part of the European Union (EU)
- B9 is also regarded as the voice of the Eastern Flank in the NATO alliance.



Composition

- Member of B9 include – Romania, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and the three Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.
- **Romania, Poland, Hungary, and Bulgaria** are former signatories of the now dissolved Warsaw Pact military alliance led by the Soviet Union.
- **Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania** were part of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).

Three Seas Initiative

- B9 should not be confused with Three Seas Initiative (3SI).
- 3SI is a regional effort in Europe to expand cross-border energy, transportation, and digital infrastructure and boost economic development in the area between the **Adriatic Sea, Baltic Sea, and Black Sea**.
- Twelve countries (**Austria**, Bulgaria, **Croatia**, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and **Slovenia**), all of which are members of the EU, participate in the 3SI.

India signs Host Country Agreement with ITU

- India signed the **Host Country Agreement (HCA)** with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for the establishment of an Area Office & Innovation Centre of ITU in New Delhi.
- The **Host Country Agreement** provides the legal and financial framework for establishment and operations of the Area Office.

Key details

- The Area Office and Innovation Centre of ITU at New Delhi is expected to serve South Asian countries namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India.
- The Area Office shall also have an Innovation Centre, which is expected to give impetus to R&D in telecommunication technologies in South Asia.
- The Innovation Centre will provide opportunities to academics, start-ups and SMEs to showcase their innovation at a global stage.