

Protect FCTC meetings from the tobacco industry

Evidence is mounting that demonstrates beyond a shadow of a doubt that the tobacco industry and its front groups infiltrate FCTC meetings directly. Internal tobacco industry documents,¹ medical journals,² tobacco industry publications,³ and whistleblower testimony⁴ demonstrate that when tobacco industry representatives infiltrate COPs, they manipulate and intimidate delegates while collecting information about potential regulation in order to devise strategies to undermine progress.

At COP7, Parties should adopt a comprehensive policy that closes all loopholes that allow the tobacco industry and its affiliates to disrupt these important meetings, bringing the COP in line with Article 5.3 and its guidelines.

Essential elements of the policy:

- It is a simple change to the rules of procedure to keep the tobacco industry and its affiliates from infiltrating COPs and other FCTC related meetings.
- It will maintain transparency for delegations, media, and the public while preventing the tobacco industry from obtaining sensitive FCTC information and unduly influencing delegates.
- It brings FCTC meetings in line with Article 5.3 of the FCTC and its guidelines.



Tobacco industry infiltration of FCTC meetings through badges intended for the “public” forced Parties to expel the public from recent meetings, including COP5 (pictured here) and COP6. Parties have the groundbreaking opportunity at COP7 to safeguard all future FCTC meetings from Big Tobacco’s infiltration.

RECOMMENDATIONS

At COP7, Parties should:

1. Adopt the following measures as recommended in the Secretariat’s “maximizing transparency” report:
 - Require delegates and media sign declaration of interest forms.
 - Empower the Secretariat to exclude those with conflicts of interest.
 - Accredite the media with a unique badge.
2. No longer allow the public to attend through a distinct badge. Instead, encourage bona fide members of the public (e.g., academia) to attend the COP through accredited NGO observers.

¹http://www.jcicinternational.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/LIFTING_THE_LID-October2012.pdf

²<http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/early/2012/05/26/tobaccocontrol-2011-050222.abstract>

³A Cop Too Far? January 2013. Tobacco Reporter.

⁴The Secret Bribes of Big Tobacco paper trail - <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-34944702>