



20 September, 2021

To: Honorable government delegates to the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) and Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products (The Protocol).

As governments around the world have grappled with the COVID-19 pandemic, another pandemic continues to devastate people's lives around the globe: that of tobacco-related disease, which continues to claim more than 8 million lives each year. Although it is wholly preventable, it is still driven by a powerful industry with a history of interference in lifesaving public health policy.

Fortunately, governments have united to protect people's lives from this industry's abuses through the WHO FCTC, and its groundbreaking Article 5.3. At the Eighth Conference of the Parties (COP8) of the WHO FCTC and the First Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP1) of The Protocol, governments agreed upon a groundbreaking decision to enhance Article 5.3 and maximize transparency in negotiations, protecting against the undue influence of the tobacco industry.

We, the undersigned civil society tobacco control and public health organizations (some of which are observers to the WHO FCTC), are writing to respectfully remind all Parties to the WHO FCTC and The Protocol of this decision. We urge Parties to fulfill this decision by submitting a declaration (via a declaration-of-interest form, or any format of your preference) as soon as delegations are confirmed in advance of the upcoming meetings of the WHO FCTC: COP9 and MOP2, which will take place in virtual format on November 8 – 13 and 15 – 18, 2021 respectively.

Specifically, on October 6 and 10, 2018, at COP8 of the WHO FCTC and MOP1 of The Protocol, Parties adopted the following decisions:

- FCTC/COP8(12) and FCTC/MOP1(15) "Maximizing transparency of delegations from Parties and observers to the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and other WHO FCTC Meetings". [1][2]
- When designating representatives to COPs, MOPs, or other WHO FCTC-related bodies, each Party decided to formally indicate that it has "observed Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC and has been mindful of the recommendations 4.9 and 8.3 of the Guidelines for the implementation of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC." Parties may do this via a declaration-of-interest form, or the format they determine to be in accordance with their internal procedures and domestic legislation.

These important decisions serve two primary goals: i) Accelerate and strengthen the implementation of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC and Article 4.2 of The Protocol; and ii) Forestall the tobacco industry's ongoing efforts to infiltrate and undermine implementation of the WHO FCTC and The Protocol.

When the decisions were first proposed at COP8 and MOP1, they received broad support from Parties. By making these declarations (whether via a declaration-of-interest form, or the format that Parties choose) mandatory for all Party delegations, Parties are leading by example.

Parties to the WHO FCTC and The Protocol adopted the guidelines laid out by the treaty and its protocol. To effectively implement these international instruments and its measures, it is critical that Parties protect themselves against the vested interests of the tobacco industry.

If Parties do not fulfill the obligation agreed upon in the FCTC/COP8(12) and FCTC/MOP1(15) decisions or "Maximizing Transparency Decisions" to indicate their observance of Article 5.3 and its guidelines (in the format of their preference) as soon as delegations are confirmed in advance of the upcoming meetings of COP9 and MOP2, they will be leaving the door open to the influence of the tobacco industry that will undermine the agreement. Other treaty bodies and international forums are already looking to this decision as a powerful precedent for protecting policymaking from the interference of abusive industries. With the eyes of the world on the WHO FCTC, it is critical that governments submit these declarations as soon as delegations to COP9 and MOP2 are confirmed.

Parties can find a template form that was discussed as part of the decision at COP8 here, to use as a guide if they so choose: <https://bit.ly/3nw9oMx>

We look forward to supporting the COP9/MOP2 Presidency, WHO FCTC Secretariat, Parties, and observers in continuing to advance the WHO FCTC and its lifesaving, precedent-setting measures.

Sincerely,

The undersigned organizations

**Co-sponsors**

ASH - Action on Smoking and Health U.S.

ATCA - African Tobacco Control Alliance

Corporate Accountability

SEATCA - Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance

STOP - Stopping Tobacco Organizations and Products

The Union - International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease

**Africa**

Actions Justes pour le Bien-être Social (Actions Justes-ONG)

Action Solidarité Recherche en Milieu Réel/ASOREMIR

Alternatives Durables pour le Développement (ADD) Membre de ATCA

AMOSAPU - Associação Moçambicana de Saúde Pública

Anti Alcohol and Drug Abuse Zambia

Anti Tobacco Network (Botswana)

Appui aux Initiatives de Développement-AIDE

Association pour la Défense de l'Environnement et des Consommateurs (ADEC)

Cedars Refuge Foundation

Coalition Camerounaise Contre le Tabac

Comité/Club Unesco Universitaire pour la Lutte Contre la Drogue et autres pandémies(CLUCOD)

Consumer Grassroots Association

Daily Monitor

Delight Global Foundation  
Elat Meyong Femmes  
Factcheckers Zambia  
Ghana Health Service  
HHNB  
Initiative Locale Pour Le Developpement Integre (ILDI ONGD)  
Initiative pour l'Education et le Contrôle du Tabagisme  
Ligue sénégalaise de lutte antitabac  
Mathiwos Wondu -YeEthiopia Cancer Society  
Nigeria Tobacco Control Alliance  
Nigerian Current  
NY SAHY  
ONG Actions Juste  
ONG CLUCOD  
ONG JADES Jeunesse actions développement solidarité  
Programme national de Lutte contre le Tabac  
Réseau des Ong Congolaises de lutte antitabac  
Tobacco Free Association of Zambia  
UHCA-Uganda Health Communication Alliance  
Vision for Alternative Development  
Zambia Consumer Association  
Zambia Media Network Against Tobacco  
Zambia Tobacco Control Consortium

## **Americas**

Acción Contra El Alcoholismo Ac

ACT Promoção da Saúde / ACT Health Promotion  
Alianza Bolivia Libre Sin Tabaco  
Alianza contra el Tabaco A.C. ACTA  
Alianza ENT Uruguay  
Alianza ENT Perú  
Asociación Boliviana de Sociedades Científicas de Estudiantes de Medicina  
Asociación Dominicana de Estudiantes (ADEE) Evangélicos  
ASPANICC-Bolivia  
CEDRO - Centro de Información y Educación para la Prevención del Abuso de Drogas  
Chile Libre de Tabaco  
CIET Uruguay  
CLAS-Coalición Américas Saludable  
Clínica del Tabaco S. C.  
Coalición México Salud-Hable  
COLAT Perú-Comisión Nacional Permanente de Lucha Antitabáquica  
Congregación Cristiana INC.  
CRECE, AC  
Educar Consumidores  
Felsocem  
FCA - Framework Convention Alliance for Tobacco Control  
FIC Bolivia/ Alianza por la Salud  
Fundación Anáas  
Fundación Dominicana de Obesidad y Prevención Cardiovascular  
Fundación Foro Nacional de Cáncer  
IHF-Fundación Interamericana del Corazón  
FIC Argentina-Fundación Interamericana del Corazón Argentina  
Fundahabla

FUNSAD

Mesa Ciudadana Tabaco o Salud

Pacientes en Acción, A. C.

PPcENT-Personas Proactivas con ENT

Polithink

RENATA-Red Antitabaco de Costa Rica

Refleacciona con Responsabilidad A.C.

RespiraLibre

Salud Justa MX

Scem UPFT

Sociedad Chilena de Salud Pública Oral

Sociedad de NeumoNorte

SODOCARDIO – Sociedad Dominicana de Cardiología

SÚMATE – Sociedad Unida para la Movilización Anti Tabaco en el Salvador

SUT - Sociedad Uruguaya de Tabacología

The Center for Black Health & Equity

Tu Museo, exposiciones interactivas S.C. de R.L. de C.V.

## **Asia**

A Woman Alliance of Against Tobacco-TABINAJ

ASH Thailand

Asha Parivar

Asian Consultancy on Tobacco Control

Association For Promotion Sustainable Development

Association of Environmental Health Officers, Malaysia (EHOM)

Black Sail Ventures

CNS- Citizen News Service

Education and Research Association of Pahang

Empower India

HealthJustice Philippines

Huvadhoo Aid

Indraprastha Public Affairs Centre

Jeewaka Foundation

Li Chee Chinese Women Association SKL

Malaysian Association of Adolescent Health

Malaysian Green Lung Association

Malaysian Women's Action on Tobacco Control and Health(MyWATCH)

National Campaign for Sustainable Development Nepal\_NGO Pertubuhan Ikram  
Malaysia

Persekutuan Seruan Islam Selangor & Wilayah Persekutuan Pertubuhan TELANG  
Malaysia

People's Health Foundation

Smoke-free Cities Asia Pacific Network (SCAN)

Sustainable Development Network Malaysia

Third World Network

Women Development Program

### **Mediterranean and Middle East**

Smoke Free Israel

### **Western Europe**

Austrian Council on Smoking and Health

Cancer Research UK

Centro Colaborador de la OMS para el Control del Tabaco /Institut Català d'Oncologia

CNCT - Comité National Contre le Tabagisme,

ENSP - European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention

Unfairtobacco / BLUE 21

XQNS !