

Safeguarding

public health from

Big Tobacco at

COP10 & MOP3

s to the WHO Framework
tion on Tobacco Control



Tobacco industry infiltration at years of WHO FCTC meetings led Parties to adopt a precedent-setting decision at COP8 (pictured here) and MOP1 to ensure transparency of delegations and protect policymaking from industry interference.

Parties should submit Declaration of Interest forms to protect against industry interference

THE GLOBAL TOBACCO CONTROL TREATY

This year marks the 20th anniversary¹ of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). This influential World Health Organization (WHO) treaty has had an outsized impact on tobacco control globally. The Tenth Conference of the Parties (COP10) is an opportunity for the 183 Parties to convene and advance lifesaving tobacco control policy.² The Third Meeting of the Parties (MOP3) will take place immediately after COP10 and address the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products (The Protocol).³

Article 5.3 of the FCTC and Arts. 4.1 & 4.2 of The Protocol are particularly groundbreaking: they prohibit the tobacco industry from having any role in policymaking.^{4 5} Article 5.3 specifically is widely recognized as the backbone of the treaty's success. Yet year after year, the industry interferes to protect its profits.

A POWERFUL SOLUTION TO INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE

At COP8 and MOP1, Parties agreed on groundbreaking decisions to maximize transparency of treaty negotiations and eliminate industry interference.^{6 7} These decisions enhance Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC, helping guide Parties to protect negotiations from the undue influence of the tobacco industry. Specifically, Parties decided to require themselves, members of the public, the media, and accredited observer organizations attending negotiations to submit declarations of any conflicts of interest with the tobacco industry.⁸

IDENTIFYING TOBACCO INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE

More than 8 million people die every year at the hands of the tobacco industry.⁹ Cigarettes (the main product of this industry) are deadly to people and extremely profitable for corporations.¹⁰ The tobacco industry does everything in its power to protect its profits by undermining tobacco control policy, at the expense of people's lives.

Industry interference has been blatant and egregious. Some examples include:

- Bribing delegates: In 2012, British American Tobacco (BAT) allegedly bribed FCTC representatives.¹¹
- Holding secret meetings and lobbying for tobacco corporations: At COP7, Philip Morris International executives held secret meetings with government delegates to influence negotiations.¹² Also, research shows how UK diplomats have lobbied for BAT in past years.¹³
- Hiding behind front groups: Philip Morris International wholly funds the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World.¹⁴
- Infiltrating policy meetings: At COP8, tobacco representatives registered as journalists to access sessions.¹⁵
- Noise around COP9: Tobacco industry allies promoted industry talking points on social media and through small-scale street demonstrations.¹⁶
- Using corporate social responsibility (CSR) tactics to undermine Art. 5.3 champions: Philip Morris International attempted to form a partnership with Canada. Luckily, this was stopped by tobacco control advocates.¹⁷



For endnotes, please view the digital version of this document by scanning this code.

RECOMMENDATIONS: HOW TO SUBMIT A DECLARATION OF INTEREST FORM NOW

Tools & templates available:

The template is an optional resource for submitting a Declaration of Conflict of Interest (DOI) form.

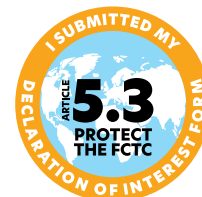
Parties can use any format they prefer for submitting DOI forms.

How to submit a DOI to the Secretariat:

Parties should submit DOIs at the time of registration. Please visit CorporateAccountability.org/COP10 for more information, or reach out directly to the Secretariat.¹⁸

Spread the word:

Once you've submitted your DOI form, you're welcome to pick up a button to show other delegates that you're committed to transparency and accountability at COP10/MOP3.



PARTIES MUST PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY FROM INDUSTRY INTERESTS

Be vigilant—familiarize yourself and your fellow delegates about what tobacco industry interference looks like. Alert WHO FCTC officials if you witness interference of any kind from industry interests. Consider using accredited observers, like Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) as a resource.¹⁹

Ensure that you and other delegates from your country vet your delegations and submit a declaration of interest (DOI) form.

LEARN MORE

Visit CorporateAccountability.org/COP10 or contact us at COP10@CorporateAccountability.org for more information.