



WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON TOBACCO CONTROL

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL

FCTC/COP/10/20
19 May 2023

Tenth session
Panama City, Panama, 20–25 November 2023
Provisional agenda item 8.5

Review of accreditation of nongovernmental organizations with the status of observer to the Conference of the Parties

Report by the Convention Secretariat

Purpose of the document

The present report provides a summary of the work reported by the nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that are accredited as observers to the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) as part of the review of their accreditation by the COP.

Action by the Conference of the Parties

The COP is invited to note the present report and consider adopting the annexed draft decision to maintain the observer status of the reviewed NGOs.

Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): All SDGs; in particular, SDG 3 and Target 3.a, as well as SDG 17.

Link to Workplan and Budget item: 2.2.1.

Additional financial implications if not included in the Workplan and Budget: None.

Related document(s): Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

BACKGROUND

1. The present report has been prepared with reference to Rule 31.3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties (COP), decision FCTC/COP5(22) that adopted a process for future reviews of accreditation of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and, in particular, decision FCTC/COP6(23) that adopted the standard reporting questionnaire for use by NGOs for future reviews of accreditation.
2. Decision FCTC/COP5(22) requested the Convention Secretariat to analyse the reports received from NGOs and prepare a report for the Bureau for its review so that the Bureau can make recommendations to the COP at its next regular session on whether to maintain, suspend or discontinue the observer status of accredited NGOs.
3. In accordance with the process adopted by the COP, on 1 February 2023 the Convention Secretariat issued an electronic invitation to the 26 NGOs that are accredited with observer status to the COP to submit reports via an online questionnaire. The deadline for the submission of reports was 28 February 2023.
4. The present report provides examples of the work carried out by NGOs that are accredited as observers to the COP to support Parties with implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), based on the reports submitted through the above process, and contains recommendations on whether to maintain, suspend or discontinue the observer status of accredited NGOs to the COP. The reports of the NGO observers are available on the Convention Secretariat's website.¹

REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT

5. All 26 NGOs accredited as observers to the COP have responded to the online questionnaire before the required deadline, as follows:
 - Action on Smoking and Health
 - African Tobacco Control Alliance
 - American Cancer Society
 - Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
 - Cancer Research UK
 - Corporate Accountability
 - European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention
 - FDI World Dental Federation
 - Global Alliance for Tobacco Control²
 - InterAmerican Heart Foundation
 - International Alliance of Women

¹ <https://fctc.who.int/who-fctc/governance/observers/nongovernmental-organizations/nongovernmental-organizations-reports>.

² Formerly known as the Framework Convention Alliance on Tobacco Control.

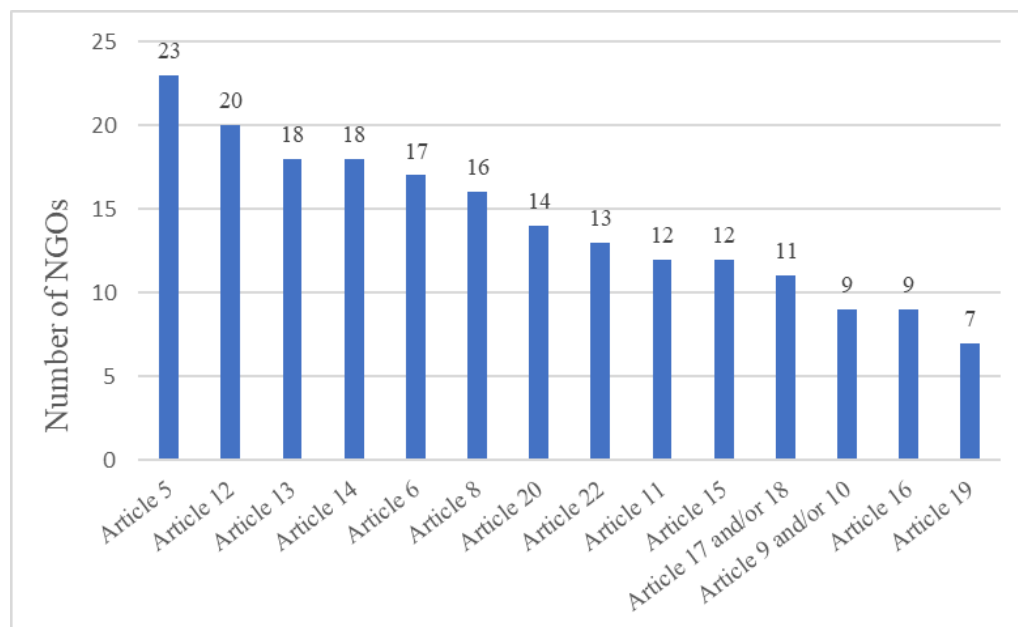
- International Council of Nurses
- International Network of Women Against Tobacco
- International Pharmaceutical Federation
- International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation
- International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease
- Smoke Free Partnership
- Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance
- Tobacco Control Research Group
- Tobacco Free Portfolios
- Union for International Cancer Control
- Vision Mondiale de la Santé
- Vital Strategies Inc.
- World Federation of Public Health Associations
- World Heart Federation
- World Medical Association.

SUMMARY OF THE CONVENTION SECRETARIAT'S ANALYSIS OF THE REPORTS RECEIVED AND EXAMPLES OF RECENT WORK OF NGO OBSERVERS

6. This summary is based on reports received from 26 NGOs that are accredited with observer status to the COP and focuses on:

- (a) trends in the contribution of NGOs to support implementation of the WHO FCTC by the Parties; and
- (b) examples of projects that were reported in the submitted reports.

7. The graph below shows how many NGO observers, out of the total of 26 that reported, indicated that they worked on particular articles of the WHO FCTC.



8. NGO observers continued to provide the most support to Article 5 (General obligations), followed by Article 12 (Education, communication, training and public awareness). Some examples of activities in the areas where NGO observers invested most of their efforts include:

(a) Many NGO observers reported working on Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC (protection of public health policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry), particularly on monitoring the activities of the tobacco industry and publishing tobacco industry interference indices. Some of the reports also document how governments have responded to attempts by the tobacco industry to interfere with and undermine public health policies. For example, Action on Smoking and Health launched the 2021 United States Tobacco Industry Interference Index; the African Tobacco Control Alliance published a report detailing how the Africa Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2021 helped to move forward policies in the continent, Corporate Accountability coordinated the preparation of the 2021 Latin America Tobacco Industry Interference Index, the Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance produced the Asian and ASEAN Tobacco Industry Interference Indices in 2020 and 2021, Smoke Free Partnership develops every two years a tobacco industry interference index by analysing the European Union transparency register, and the Tobacco Control Research Group authored the UK Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2021.

(b) The African Tobacco Control Alliance developed the *Clean Up* campaign in relation to the World No Tobacco Day 2022. The campaign was implemented by regional and global partners including the African Capacity Building Foundation, the Africa Centre for Tobacco Industry Monitoring and Policy Research, the Centre for Tobacco Control in Africa, the Global Alliance for Tobacco Control, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids and the Global Center for Good Governance in Tobacco Control. A database with relevant resources was developed, and a webinar and a press conference were organized within the scope of the campaign.

(c) The Global Alliance for Tobacco Control hosted the event *Regulating Cross-border Tobacco Advertising: Preventing Tobacco Use Initiation Among Youths*. It promoted implementation of Article 13 of the WHO FCTC and measures with respect to cross-border advertising, promotion and sponsorship as a means of preventing tobacco use initiation among youth and to counter the tobacco industry's efforts to entice new consumers. Vital Strategies launched a digital monitoring system, the Tobacco Enforcement and Reporting Movement (TERM), that provides continuous, real-time data on tobacco marketing to governments, the media and tobacco control advocates. The project has been implemented in India, Indonesia (which is not a Party to the Convention) and Mexico, and included the publication of reports and scientific papers encouraging governments to protect consumers from digital tobacco marketing.

(d) The International Pharmaceutical Federation reported developing a handbook for pharmacists on tobacco cessation to be launched on the World No Tobacco Day 2023, with technical input from the World Health Organization (WHO). This resource will support pharmacists in delivering tobacco cessation services (ranging from brief advice to in-depth counselling and support to people wishing to quit tobacco use) and to organize related campaigns involving pharmacies. FDI World Dental Federation supports capacity-building for oral health professionals to improve the delivery of tobacco cessation services. Eight workshops were organized in Egypt, Greece, Nigeria, Türkiye, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and State non-Parties and territories, on how to provide tobacco cessation advice to patients using FDI's Tobacco Cessation Guide.

(e) The Union for International Cancer Control helped strengthen the capacity of officials at health, finance and other ministries, as well as parliamentarians, on tobacco tax measures in Viet Nam and Indonesia (which is not a Party to the Convention). In Pakistan, the Union engaged the Ministry of Health in tax discussions and coordinated with Bloomberg Initiative partners to provide policy recommendations.

9. The submitted reports suggest that there are areas where less support was provided by NGO observers to the Parties. As indicated in paragraph 7 of the present report, such articles include Article 19 (Liability) and Article 16 (Sales to and by minors), followed by Articles 9 and 10 (Regulation of the contents of tobacco products and of tobacco product disclosures, respectively), and Articles 17 and 18 (Provision of support for economically viable alternative activities, and protection of the environment and the health of persons, respectively). Some examples of support for implementation of these articles include:

(a) Corporate Accountability launched the *Make Big Tobacco Pay* campaign, in which Parties were encouraged (governments and public health officials) to strengthen implementation of the Convention and use the WHO FCTC Article 19 Civil Liability Toolkit. The campaign also calls for the use of lessons learned from other Parties in relation to liability and for more collaboration with national stakeholders and international partners in supporting work on liability. Supporters of this campaign included Action on Smoking and Health, the African Tobacco Control Alliance, the European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention, and the Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance.

(b) The Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance has been advocating for a higher legal age for tobacco consumption (of at least 21 years old) in the Philippines, while in Malaysia it has supported the calls for a generational endgame (facilitating high-level advocacy work to ensure that the generational endgame strategy excluded a relaxation of regulations for e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products).

(c) The International Alliance of Women has been monitoring – through its health commission – the sale to minors of individual cigarettes in markets in Africa.

10. Many of the examples above assist Parties with implementation of Article 22 of the Convention (Cooperation in the scientific, technical and legal fields and provision of related expertise). The work of civil society acts as a catalyst for sharing information, experience, expertise and knowledge among Parties, thus contributing to building capacity for the implementation of the Convention within the Parties' jurisdictions.

RETAINING OBSERVER STATUS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

11. The NGO reports submitted indicate that civil society continues to provide important contributions to the implementation of the WHO FCTC by the Parties, in line with Article 4.7 of the Convention. NGO observers have increased their support in the areas of regulation of tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship (Article 13) and the promotion of cessation of tobacco use and adequate treatment for tobacco dependence (Article 14), compared to the last cycle of reporting.

12. All 26 NGOs in their submitted reports expressed the wish to retain their observer status to the COP. No conflicts of interest were declared in any of the NGO reports.

ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

13. The COP is invited to note the present report, and, following the recommendation of the Bureau, consider adopting the annexed draft decision.

ANNEX

**DRAFT DECISION:
REVIEW OF ACCREDITATION OF NONGOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE STATUS OF OBSERVER TO THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES**

The Conference of the Parties (COP),

Recalling the 17th and 18th preambular paragraphs and Article 5.3 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control;

Recalling also decisions FCTC/COP2(6), FCTC/COP4(23), FCTC/COP5(22), FCTC/COP6(23), FCTC/COP7(16), FCTC/COP8(3) and FCTC/COP9(6);

Having considered the proposals contained in document FCTC/COP/10/20,

DECIDES, in accordance with Rule 31.3 of its Rules of Procedure, to maintain observer status of the following 26 nongovernmental organizations:

- Action on Smoking and Health
- African Tobacco Control Alliance
- American Cancer Society
- Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
- Cancer Research UK
- Corporate Accountability
- European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention
- FDI World Dental Federation
- Global Alliance for Tobacco Control
- InterAmerican Heart Foundation
- International Alliance of Women
- International Council of Nurses
- International Network of Women Against Tobacco
- International Pharmaceutical Federation
- International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation
- International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease
- Smoke Free Partnership
- Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance
- Tobacco Control Research Group
- Tobacco Free Portfolios

- Union for International Cancer Control
- Vision Mondiale de la Santé
- Vital Strategies Inc.
- World Federation of Public Health Associations
- World Heart Federation
- World Medical Association.

(XXX plenary meeting, XX November 2023)

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