

Pakistan

Overall score:

66

I. Industry participation in policy development:

Progress has been achieved in applying larger pictorial health warnings on cigarette packs, however, the tobacco industry interfered through lobbying non-health departments to reduce the size of the warnings. Similarly, the tobacco industry lobbied the Ministry of Finance to add a third tier of tobacco tax, which resulted to cheaper cigarettes.

II. Tobacco industry-related CSR activities:

Such CSR activities are not banned and remain a problem in Pakistan. Pakistan Tobacco Co (PTC) was able to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with a few government agencies to carry out joint CSR activities.

III. Benefits given to the tobacco industry:

The tobacco industry benefited by being able to sell cheap cigarettes through the introduction of a third tier of taxation.

International travellers into Pakistan are able to bring in 200 cigarettes or 20 cigars or 250g of cigarette or pipe tobacco per traveller.

IV. Unnecessary interaction with the tobacco industry:

Based on publicly available information, government officials are not found to engage in unnecessary interaction with the tobacco industry.

V. Procedure for transparency measures:

There is no public access to information about meetings between government officials and the tobacco industry. There is no requirement to register representatives of the tobacco industry entities, their affiliated organizations, and individuals acting on their behalf.

VI. Avoiding conflicts of interest:

There are instances of conflict of interest involving government officials in activities linked to the tobacco industry. The Chairman of the PTC Board is a member of the advisory committee for the Federal Ombudsman in Islamabad.

Pakistan does not prohibit contributions from the tobacco industry or any entity working to further its interests to political parties, candidates or campaigns.

VII. Preventive measures:

The standard operating procedure is an important tool for the government to use to set up a procedure in dealing with the tobacco industry. A code of conduct for officials must be developed and implemented immediately.

The government does not require the tobacco industry to submit information on tobacco production, manufacture, market share, marketing expenditures, revenues and any other activity, including lobbying, philanthropy and political contributions.



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Recommendations

1. Tobacco industry-related CSR activities must be banned. Government agencies must end all agreements and memorandum of agreements with tobacco companies.
2. There must be a register of all representatives of the tobacco industry entities, affiliated organizations, and individuals acting on their behalf.
3. The government should require the tobacco industry to submit information on tobacco production, manufacture, market share, marketing expenditures, revenues and lobbying activities.
4. Based on an assessment of the implementation of the standard operating procedure, a code of conduct for all civil servants should be implemented.