

Iran

Overall score:

34

Summary of Findings

1. Industry participation in policy development

The National Tobacco Control Law bans any support of tobacco manufacturers to government programs. Hence, the tobacco industry cannot participate in policy development. The tobacco industry also is not part of the government delegation to WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)-related meetings.

2. Industry CSR activities

The law bans tobacco-related CSR and there are no instances of CSR activities conducted in 2019.

3. Benefits to the industry

The government has not given any benefit to the tobacco industry. In fact, imported tobacco is taxed higher and costs more than local tobacco products.

4. Unnecessary interaction

Top level government officials do not attend any tobacco-related functions nor foster any relationship with the tobacco industry.

5. Transparency

The Ministry of Industry has a priority for privatization so they permit the Center for Tobacco Planning and Supervision for some action and have plans to increase the area under tobacco cultivation. It is not clear how often the Center has to submit reports to its governing body, whether the Center has a procedure for meeting with tobacco companies, or whether these reports are made available to the tobacco control committee.

6. Conflict of interest

Although no government officials hold any office in the tobacco industry, a former head of a tobacco company has been appointed to a senior officer position in the Ministry of Industry.

7. Preventive measures

There is no permit for the tobacco industry to attend or engage in any interaction with government officials. Article 4 of National Law and its bylaw bans any support to tobacco manufacturers for their programs. None of the representatives of national tobacco companies are allowed to attend any tobacco control policy-making sessions. Article 20 of the National Tobacco Control Law states: "It is the responsibility of the Committee to keep the technical Commission of the Parliament informed of the annual revenues derived from production and imports of cigarettes and tobacco products." The government has put in place a policy to disallow the acceptance of all forms of contributions/gifts from the tobacco industry. The adoption of a code of conduct for government officials is still in the planning stage.



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Recommendations

1. The Ministry of Industry should coordinate with the Center for Tobacco Planning and Supervision to implement the FCTC which obligates the country to reduce tobacco use and tobacco supply including disallowing new licenses to tobacco companies.
2. The government should expedite the adoption of a code of conduct for all government officials in their interaction with the tobacco industry which should be limited to only when strictly necessary.
3. There must be a registry of tobacco industry representatives.