

# Nicaragua



## Summary of Findings

### 1. INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

No evidence of tobacco industry (TI) participation in tobacco control policy development in the country was recorded in the report period.

### 2. INDUSTRY CSR ACTIVITIES

No information on national or local government institutions accepting or participating in TI CSR activities. There is evidence that the tobacco companies themselves conduct environmental cleanup campaigns with volunteer personnel.

### 3. BENEFITS TO THE INDUSTRY

No evidence to indicate that the TI influences or obtains specific tax benefits granted by the national or local government.

International travelers can bring 20 packets of cigarettes or 50 cigars or 500g of tobacco into Nicaragua as duty-free products.

### 4. UNNECESSARY INTERACTION

Annually, the Nicaraguan Chamber of Tobacco Growers hosts the “Puro Sabor” Tobacco Festival, which was previously held virtually owing to the Covid-19 outbreak. This year (2023), a face-to-face encounter with the mayor of the Municipality of Estel was conducted at a news conference. Furthermore, the Festival was marketed through El 19 Digital, a Nicaraguan State Government-controlled online news platform.

### 5. TRANSPARENCY

The interaction found in digital publications between the different areas of the national and local government and the TI was related to the Tobacco Festival “Puro Sabor” 2023 edition, justified by the government as a necessary event to promote the export and import of cigars; therefore, in tobacco production areas it is considered important development in the promotion of tourism, the generation of jobs which stimulates the economy.

It is worth mentioning that, although there is a mandatory registration of tobacco companies operating in the interior of the country, it does not apply to those consulting entities (natural or legal) that could work to further their interests.

### 6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The government does not have a legal framework to prohibit contributions from tobacco companies to organizations that contribute to their interests. No evidence of participation in tobacco companies by retired national government officials or family members of current government officials in the report period.

### 7. PREVENTIVE MEASURES

The government does not have a policy that requires disclosure of interactions with the TI. Nor does it have a specific code of conduct for public officials, provisions requiring the TI to report their marketing expenditures and profits, ministerial resolutions committing to raising awareness for the implementation of WHO FCTC Article 5.3 guidelines, or a provision prohibiting the TI from making any kind of contributions to the government, its officials, or their family members.



## Recommendations

1. Design and implement a communication strategy to raise awareness on the application of the WHO FCTC Article 5.3 Guidelines, covered by Law No. 727, the Tobacco Control Law, through the National Tobacco Control Council.
2. Develop and implement a code of conduct that regulates the participation of national or local public officials interacting with the TI.
3. Implement the mandatory registration of entities that act in favor of the TI interests.