

# Senegal



## Summary of Findings

### 1. INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

No offer of assistance or support from the tobacco industry (TI) in the definition or implementation of public health policy, particularly in the fight against smoking, has been recorded. This is in accordance with Article 1 of Law No. 12/2014 of 28 March 2014 on the Manufacture, Packaging, Labelling, Sale and Use of Tobacco. This law states, "the State formally prohibits any interference by the tobacco industry in national health policies."

### 2. INDUSTRY CSR ACTIVITIES

Since 2009 the government has not been publicly involved in the activities of the TI. The one exception was recorded during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the government received a donation of CFA 1 billion francs (USD \$1.6 million) from Mauritanian billionaire Mohamed Ould Bouamatou who made his fortune selling cigarettes.

### 3. BENEFITS TO THE INDUSTRY

An Investment Code has been drawn up to attract foreign investors. The TI benefits from tax exemption on tobacco imports into Senegal.

As part of the implementation of health warnings, the TI requested and received a six-month period to make the necessary changes in its tools, including the production of new cigarette packs bearing 70% graphic health warning since 26 August 2017.

### 4. UNNECESSARY INTERACTION

No evidence of unnecessary interactions between the government and the TI has been recorded. It will be noted that in 2020 the head of Customs Department received a USD \$5 million grant from the TI to combat cross-border cigarette smuggling.

### 5. TRANSPARENCY

There is very little information on the existence of a regulatory text requiring the TI to provide periodic information on its activities, and the government does not publicly disclose information about its meetings and interactions with the TI in cases where such interactions are strictly necessary.

### 6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is an inherent conflict of interest between the government, which guarantees effective public health, and the TI, which sells a product that kills the public. This misalignment of priorities leads to the TI acting to delay the adoption of regulations that are unfavorable to it.

### 7. PREVENTIVE MEASURES

The government has not yet developed, adopted, nor implemented a code of conduct for its public officials and there is no procedure for disclosing documents relating to interactions with the TI.



## Recommendations

1. Make information accessible for all citizens without any form of restriction in accordance with the WHO FCTC Article 5.3 guidelines and recommendations.
2. Sensitize the sectoral ministries of government (Ministries of Economy and Finance, Trade and Industry) to update their websites to facilitate access to information and ensure transparency.
3. Develop a code of conduct for public officials in dealing with the TI.
4. Advocate with authorities and community actors on the TI's interference and tactics that undermine tobacco control policies.
5. Produce periodic reports on the monitoring of the TI and share them with relevant ministries and the public.
6. Collect scientific information necessary for understanding new tobacco products.
7. Protect tobacco control policies and activities from commercial interests related to new tobacco products in accordance with Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC.