

Sudan



Summary of Findings

1. INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The government does not approve any policy or adopt any offers of assistance from the tobacco industry (TI). However, there is TI participation in developing the standards for tobacco control in the country. Three representatives from tobacco companies sit on five committees of the Sudanese Organization for Standardization and Metrology.

The government does not allow the TI on its delegations to the COP or any of its related meetings.

2. INDUSTRY CSR ACTIVITIES

The officials do not attend or participate in any TI-related or run social corporate responsibility activities. BAT has sponsored an event despite the Tobacco Control Regulation's 2021 prohibition on sponsorship by the TI in Sudan.

3. BENEFITS TO THE INDUSTRY

The new regulation to increase the graphic health warnings from 30% to 75% was published in the Gazette of the Sudanese Ministry of Justice in March 2021. The Standardization organization has been holding meetings for the committee to draft specifications for more than a year, but they have not yet concluded. They are further working to raise the warning to 65% rather than 75% as required by law.

The TI has sent objections on the new Tobacco Control Regulation to the head of the Ministry of Finance and the deputy of the Sovereign Council, but the government officials refused to accept their complaint.

The National Investment Law allows all companies, including tobacco companies, to benefit from the privileges provided in the law such as exemption of various levies, allocation of land for factories, and production inputs.

International travelers can bring in duty free 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 1 lb. of tobacco into the country.

4. UNNECESSARY INTERACTION

No information is available about interaction between the government and the TI. The government does not accept or endorse or enter into partnerships or agreements with the TI.

5. TRANSPARENCY

Prior to 2016, the Ministry of Health disclosed their meetings and interactions with the TI, but nothing has been disclosed thereafter.

There are no rules for disclosure or registration of TI entities, affiliated organizations and individuals acting on its behalf.

Tombak traders are represented by a registered union, which has meetings with the government in their capacity as an organization that defends tobacco trade and agriculture.

6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no record of retired senior government officials joining the TI upon their retirement, nor current government officials and relatives holding positions in the tobacco business.



7. PREVENTIVE MEASURES

There is no procedure for disclosing the records of the interaction (such as agenda, attendees, minutes and outcome) with the TI and its representatives. They have also not implemented any codes of conduct for public officials to prescribe the standards with which they should comply in their dealings with the TI.

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

A focal point for tobacco control has been established who conducts seminars, awareness meetings, health forums through various media and public lectures. However, there has been no program to create awareness specifically around WHO FCTC Article 5.3 yet.

There is no policy to disallow contributions or gifts from the TI including offers of assistance, policy drafts, or study visit invitations given or offered to the government and its agencies.

Recommendations

1. Adopt a code of conduct for public officials to guide their interactions with the TI only when strictly necessary.
2. Develop a procedure for disclosing the records of the interaction (such as agenda, attendees, minutes and outcome) with the TI and its representatives.
3. Create awareness specifically around WHO FCTC Article 5.3 for government departments.