

# Kuwait



## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### 1. Industry Participation in Policy Development

There is no evidence of direct involvement of the tobacco industry (TI) in policy development.

### 2. Industry CSR Activities

No documented corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities by the TI were found during the review period.

### 3. Benefits to the Industry

Kuwait has no excise duty on cigarettes and applies only levies on imported cigarettes. However, Kuwait has delayed implementation of the customs tax agreed to by the Gulf Cooperation Council. The last reported benefit to the TI dates back to 2019, with no publicly available evidence of similar practices since then. No new tobacco-specific regulations have been adopted, apart from a general customs decision that also covers other goods.

### 4. Unnecessary Interaction

In 2023, the government reported that it avoids entering into partnerships or agreements with the TI. Officials in the Ministry of Health are also prohibited from dealing with the TI. However, this restriction does not apply to officials in other departments and does not prevent the TI from using intermediaries or representatives to communicate with the Ministry of Health.

### 5. Transparency

There is no specific procedure or dedicated law governing situations in which interactions with the TI are strictly necessary for regulatory purposes, apart from Law No. 12 of 2020 on the Right to Access Information.

### 6. Conflict of Interest

There is no documented evidence of senior or retired officials joining or participating in TI activities. There is also no evidence that the government prohibits contributions from the TI.

### 7. Preventive Measures

The government has not adopted or implemented a code of conduct for public officials in their dealings with the TI. While the TI is required to submit information on tobacco production and manufacture for tax purposes, there is no requirement to submit other information such as market share, marketing expenditures, lobbying, philanthropy, or related activities.

There is no publicly available information indicating that the government has a program or plan to consistently raise awareness of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC within its departments.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Implement tobacco excise taxation for tobacco products, including electronic products, in line with regional and international benchmarks.
2. Establish a procedure to document and disclose data on conflicts of interest, transparency, and interactions with the TI.
3. Adopt a government-wide code of conduct to guide all officials, not only Ministry of Health personnel, when interacting with the TI. The Ministry of Health, through its National Program to Combat Smoking Committee, could take the lead in drafting these procedures.
4. Require the TI to submit information on tobacco production, manufacture, market share, marketing expenditures, revenues, lobbying, philanthropy, political contributions, and other activities.
5. Raise awareness within government departments on policies related to Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC. These activities could be coordinated between the Ministry of Health through its National Tobacco Program, civil society, and academia.