

Sudan



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. Industry Participation in Policy Development

The government does not approve policies or accept offers of assistance from the tobacco industry (TI). However, the TI participates in developing tobacco-related standards, with three company representatives sitting on five committees of the Sudanese Organization for Standardization and Metrology. The government does not permit the TI to be part of its delegations to WHO FCTC COP sessions or related meetings.

2. Industry CSR Activities

Government officials do not attend or participate in any corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities organized by the TI.

3. Benefits to the Industry

In March 2021, the Sudanese Ministry of Justice published in its Gazette a regulation requiring an increase in graphic health warnings (GHWs) from 30 percent to 75 percent. Following this, the Standardization Organization convened committee meetings for more than a year to develop the required specifications; however, the process remains incomplete. The committee is now working to increase the warning size to 65 percent instead of the 75 percent required by law.

Major tobacco companies submitted objections to the new regulation to the Ministry of Finance and to the Head and Deputy of the Sovereign Council, but these objections were rejected.

The national investment law allows all companies, including those in the TI, to benefit from privileges such as exemptions on production inputs, allocation of land for factories, and waivers of certain fees.

International travelers are permitted to bring into the country duty-free up to 200 cigarettes, 1 pound of tobacco, or 50 cigars.

4. Unnecessary Interaction

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

5. Transparency

While the Ministry of Health previously disclosed its meetings and interactions with the TI, no such disclosures have been made since 2016. Overall, the government does not publicly disclose meetings or engagements with the TI.

There are no rules requiring the disclosure or registration of TI entities, affiliated organizations, or individuals acting on their behalf. A registered union for Tombak traders operates as an organization defending tobacco trade and agriculture and conducts meetings with the government. There have also been joint meetings between the union and government representatives.



6. Conflict of Interest

There is no record of retired senior government officials joining the TI, nor of current officials or their relatives holding positions in the TI.

7. Preventive Measures

There is no procedure for disclosing records of interactions (agenda, attendees, minutes, and outcomes) with the TI and its representatives. The government has not formulated, adopted, or implemented a code of conduct for public

officials prescribing the standards they should follow in their dealings with the TI. The government does not require the TI to submit information on tobacco products, manufacture, market share, marketing expenditures, revenues, or other activities, including lobbying, philanthropy, and political contributions.

There has been no program to raise awareness of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC among government departments. There is no policy to prohibit the acceptance of contributions or gifts from the TI, including offers of assistance, policy drafts, or study visit invitations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Adopt a code of conduct for public officials to guide their interactions with the TI, limited to only when strictly necessary.
2. Implement a procedure for disclosing records of interactions with the TI, including agendas, attendees, minutes, and outcomes.
3. Strengthen enforcement of the ban on TI sponsorship of public events.
4. Raise awareness among government departments about Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC.
5. Include Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC in the draft tobacco control law.