

Sudan

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Summary of Findings

1. Industry participation in policy development

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

The government does not allow the tobacco industry on its delegations to the Conference of the Parties (COP) or any of its related meetings.

2. Industry CSR activities

No information was recorded on tobacco-related corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities in the public domain till March 2021.

3. Benefits to the industry

The Central Bank of Sudan issued a circular that tobacco and cigarette manufacturing inputs were listed as necessary products; however, later the Central Bank of Sudan and the Ministry of Industry and Trade announced that it has reversed the decision.

The National Investment Law allows all companies, including tobacco companies, to benefit from the privileges provided in the law, such as exempting production inputs, allocating land to factories and exemption from some fees, according to what is stated in the law.

International travelers can bring in duty-free 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars or 1 lb. of tobacco.

4. Unnecessary interaction

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

5. Transparency

Under the previous administration, there was not a system to publicly disclose its meetings with the tobacco industry in cases where such interactions are strictly necessary for regulation.

There are no rules for disclosure or registration of tobacco industry entities, affiliated organizations and individuals acting on its behalf. The union for Tombak traders is registered.

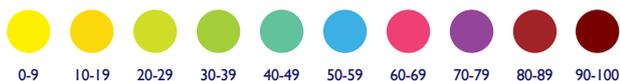
6. Conflict of interest

There are no records of retired senior government officials joining the tobacco industry 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 interactions (such as agendas, attendees, minutes and outcomes) with the tobacco industry and its representatives.

The government has not formulated, adopted or implemented a code of conduct for public officials, prescribing the standards in their dealings with the tobacco industry. There is no program to create awareness specifically around Article 5.3 for other departments. There is no policy to disallow the acceptance of contributions/gifts from the tobacco industry including offers of assistance, policy drafts or study visit invitations given or offered to the government and its agencies.





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Recommendations

1. The government must adopt a code of conduct for public officials to guide their interactions with the tobacco industry when strictly necessary.
2. There must be a procedure for disclosing the records of the interaction (such as agendas, attendees, minutes and outcomes) with the tobacco industry and its representatives.
3. There must be a program to create awareness specifically around Article 5.3 for government departments.
4. To include Article 5.3 in the drafted updated law.