

# Uganda

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## Summary of Findings

### 1. Industry participation in policy development

The government of Uganda has earmarked 11 billion Uganda shillings as payment to tobacco farmer. This is contrary to the Tobacco Control Act (TCA) as it amounts to a privilege to the tobacco industry and promotion and sponsorship as stipulated in the definition of tobacco promotion and tobacco sponsorship in the Uganda TCA.

### 2. Industry CSR activities

Although the TCA clearly bans tobacco-related corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities, the government accepted donations from the tobacco industry during the COVID-19 pandemic. A tobacco industry-funded international NGO, the Eliminating Child Labour in Tobacco Growing Foundation (ECLT), continued to fund activities in Uganda endorsed by district government and trade unions.

### 3. Benefits to the industry

The TCA prohibits any benefits to the tobacco industry; however, the government sought a supplementary budget of approximately 11.2 billion Uganda shillings (3.08 million USD) to compensate tobacco farmers who were demanding payment from two tobacco companies (Nimataback Ltd and Continental Tobacco) that have failed to pay them for supplied tobacco leaves.

The Uganda Customs, Currency & Airport Tax regulations allow international travelers to bring 200 sticks of cigarettes or 250g of tobacco into the country tax-free.

### 4. Unnecessary interaction

The government has not put in place a procedure for disclosing the records of its interactions (such as agendas, attendees, minutes and outcomes) with the tobacco industry and its representatives. This is not reflected in the tobacco control regulations.

### 5. Transparency

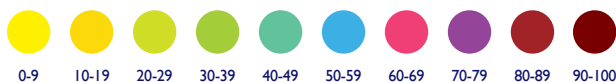
Although the disclosure of meetings is provided for in the TCA, the consultation meeting between BAT Uganda and the Office of the Prime Minister was not publicized.

### 6. Conflict of interest

There is no record of a conflict of interest of any senior government official joining the tobacco industry or vice versa during this reporting period.

### 7. Preventive measures

The government has not put in place a procedure for disclosing the records of its interactions (such as agendas, attendees, minutes and outcomes) with the tobacco industry and its representatives. This is not reflected in the TCA and neither is this reflected in the current tobacco control regulations.





**Uganda has earmarked 11 billion Uganda shillings as payment to tobacco farmers to compensate them since two tobacco companies failed to pay them for leaves supplied.**



## Recommendations

1. There is a need to create awareness on the provisions of the TCA and ensure all departments are aware of the limits when interacting with the tobacco industry.
2. Diplomatic missions must be made aware of the TCA so that the law is applied to officials overseas and those who represent the country at international meetings.
3. Duty-free sales of cigarettes/cigars/tobacco for international travelers should be halted.
4. Penalties for unnecessary interactions with tobacco industry and its representatives should be enforced.
5. The government should put in place a procedure for disclosing the records of its interactions (such as a letter requesting an audience with a government ministry or agency, agendas, attendees, minutes and outcomes) with the tobacco industry and its representatives. This could be included in the Terms of Reference for the tobacco control commission rather than amending the TCA and regulations which may take time.