

# Sudan

Overall score:

57

## 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

The previous government participated in tobacco-related CSR activities and accepted the support provided by tobacco companies to public institutions such as universities and schools through scholarships and the "Back to School" program. The government also accepted a contribution from a tobacco company (Hajjar Cigarettes Company) for the construction of a university city in Omdurman at a cost of SDG 22 million pounds. Senior level officials (the President and the Minister of Industry) officiated at the opening.

### 3. Benefits to the industry

The Tobacco Control Law in Khartoum State was passed in 2012. Its regulation faced obstacles in development and its enforcement was delayed with a judicial decision issued for its implementation in 2016.

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 exempting 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

Previous senior government ministers have participated in activities organized by the tobacco industry such as the opening ceremony of a cigarette factory in Khartoum North and the opening ceremony of residential camps for universities in Omdurman sponsored by Hajjar Cigarettes Company (previously).

However, 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 were 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 and conducts meetings with the government as an organization that defends tobacco trade and agriculture, and its meetings with the government are reported in the media.

### 6. Conflict of interest

The government does not prohibit contributions from the tobacco industry to political parties or candidates, and does not request a disclosure of the value of the contributions paid by tobacco companies (there are no statistics). The ruling party accepts a contribution from Tombak traders (10 quintals tombak) to the National Congress Party.

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 interaction (such as agenda, attendees, minutes and outcome) 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 WHO Framework Convention for Tobacco Control (FCTC) 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.** Tobacco-related CSR activities must be banned.
- 2.** The government must adopt a code of conduct for public officials to guide their interactions with the tobacco industry when strictly necessary.
- 3.** There must be a procedure for disclosing the records of the interaction (such as agenda, attendees, minutes and outcome) with the tobacco industry and its representatives.
- 4.** There must be a program to create awareness specifically around Article 5.3 for government departments.
- 5.** Include Article 5.3 in the drafted updated law.