
Nicaragua

**TOBACCO
INDUSTRY
INTERFERENCE
INDEX
2023**

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Author:

Prof. Juan Almendárez Peralta.MD. MPH Director - Movicancer Foundation.

Dr. Francisco Maldonado Benavente. MD. MPH Dpto. de Control del Cáncer- Movicancer Foundation.

Lic. Benito Martínez-Granera BScN. Auditor Médico de Procesos y Servicios de Salud-Movicancer Foundation.

Prof. Marcia Ibarra. MD. MPH. Consultora Independiente.

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Background and Introduction

As part of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) implementation, this Country Report of Nicaragua is related to article 5.3 of the Convention, addressing the interference of the tobacco industry at the national and international level.

Article 5.3 provides that, in establishing and implementing their public health policies relating to tobacco control, the Parties shall act in a manner that protects such policies against the commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry, in accordance with national legislation.

Monitoring of the implementation of Article 5.3 has been integrated into the reporting system of the Convention, in line with the recommendations contained in the guidelines for implementation.

Nicaragua presents the second report based on the evidence found that corresponds to the period: April 2021 to March 2023¹.

In Nicaragua, the production of tobacco products is mainly oriented to cigars and these are exported to the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Hungary, Israel, Poland, Russia and Switzerland, according to the National Commission of Free Zones (Comisión Nacional de Zonas Francas). Total tobacco exports for 2021 was worth US\$378 million. Nicaragua exports rolled tobacco (5.1% of total exports) worth US\$356 million and 0.3 % of raw tobacco worth US\$22 million².

After the government, in Nicaragua the tobacco industry has shown sustainable growth. Last year, this product contributed 55.7 million dollars to the country's economy, just in 2022. From the National System of Production, Consumption and Commerce, work has been done on new technologies for small producers and on efficient management of irrigation systems, which allow improving the profitability of the cultivation, as well as access to new markets.

The national production of tobacco in the 2022/2023 cycle was 172 quintals branch (17,164 tons), showing growth of 3.2% compared to the previous cycle and represents 100% compliance with the goal of the National Plan for Production, Consumption and Trade. This production is located on some municipalities, mainly in Estelí, Jalapa, Jinotega, Matagalpa and Ometepe Island³.

The CEO of the Cámara Nicaragüense de Tabacaleros, (CNT, Nicaraguan Chamber of Tobacco Growers in English), refers that the tobacco industry is the fifth most important economic activity in Nicaragua. There are an estimated 52 to 60 factories, and 26 are integrated into the Chamber (CNT), and generate almost 44,000 direct jobs, which can

¹ https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/147815/FCTC_COP6_16-sp.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

² <https://oec.world/en/profile/country/nic>

³ <https://www.el19digital.com/articulos/ver/titulo:136552-produccion-de-tabaco-en-nicaragua-aporto-a-la-economia-557-millones-de-dolares-en-2022>

reach 100,000 if those who work in the field are included. They make various types of inputs for this industry, such as wood boxes or other materials that the guild needs⁴.

The Transnational Tobacco Companies Operating in Nicaragua are: British American Tobacco (BAT) Central America and Philip Morris International (PMI).

The Local Tobacco Companies are: Nick's Cigars World, Agroindustrial Nic de Tabacos S.A, Plasencia, Joya Cigars, Perdomo Cigars, S.A Nicaragua.

Although the tobacco market in Nicaragua is dominated by cigars, Philip Morris, BAT and JTI have a presence in the country but information about cigarette importation and market size is not available.

Regarding the prevalence of tobacco use among young people, the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) was conducted in 2019 by the Ministry of Health with the support of the Ministry of Education. The data described are from the population of students aged 13 to 15 years, finding a consumption of Tobacco (smoked and smokeless) of 16.4% in boys and 11.8% in girls. If we compare it with the data from the 2014 Survey, boys (20.6%) and girls (14.5%) decreased by 4.2 and 2.7 percentage points, respectively, possibly due to the legal framework applied for tobacco control in the country.⁵

Quoting the Global State of Tobacco (Harm Reduction) source, 1,141,000 people die each year due to smoking, of which 338,000 are women (3.7%) and 803,000 men (6%). The annual percentage of all deaths attributable to smoking is 5.25%.

In September 2022, the General Directorate of Customs Services of Nicaragua issued Technical Circular Number 116/2022 on the Prohibition of the import and export of electronic cigarettes, which also prohibits the storage, distribution, marketing and use of electronic systems, vaporizers, or other administrative devices with or without nicotine⁶.

A total score of 47 was obtained, 3 points lower than that obtained in the Tobacco Industry Interference Index in the Country 2021, except that there are differences in the scoring of two questions and, consequently, in the indicator.

These differences are detailed below:

1. In question number 12 of the survey, which corresponds to the transparency indicator, this index obtained a score of three (3), one point more in comparison with the interference index 2021. This score increased due to the fact that, despite the Ministerial Resolution, the registry of affiliated organizations and lobbying groups that are in favor of the interests of the tobacco industry was not instituted.
2. In question number 14 of the survey, which corresponds to the conflict of interest indicator, in the present index it obtained a score of zero (0), four points less compared to the previous country interference index. For the period evaluated,

⁴ <https://confidencial.digital/economia/tabacaleros-esperan-mantener-liderazgo-en-exportacion-de-puros-premium/>

⁵ Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) Nicaragua 2019 Fact Sheet (who.int)

⁶ <https://ariaslaw.com/en/news-in/nicaragua--ban-on-the-import-and-export-of-electronic-cigarettes-and-imposition-of-measures-on-tobacco-imports>

there was no evidence of the actions of senior officials retired from the tobacco industry.

The report is based on a questionnaire designed and implemented by the Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance. There are 20 questions based on the Article 5.3 guidelines. Information used in this report is obtained from the public domain only. A scoring system is applied to make the assessment. The score ranges from 0 - 5, where 5 indicates highest level of industry interference, and 1 is low or no interference. Hence the lower the score, the better for the country. The 0 score indicates absence of evidence or not applicable. Where multiple pieces of evidence are found, the score applied reflects an average. The report includes information on incidents from April 2021 to March 2023, but also includes prior incidents that are still relevant.

Summary Findings

1 INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Corresponding to the period investigated, we did not find any evidence of tobacco industry participation in tobacco control policy development in the country.

2 INDUSTRY CSR ACTIVITIES

In the period investigated, we found no information that national or local government institutions (municipalities) accepted or participated in CSR activities of the tobacco industry. There is evidence that the tobacco companies themselves carry out environmental cleanup campaigns with volunteer personnel.

3 BENEFITS TO THE INDUSTRY

In the course of the digital media research, we did not find any support that indicates that the tobacco industry influences or obtains specific tax benefits granted by the national or local government (mayors' offices).

International travelers can bring, as a duty free merchandise, into Nicaragua, 20 packets of cigarettes or 50 cigars or 500g of tobacco.

4 UNNECESSARY INTERACTION

Every year, the Nicaraguan Chamber of Tobacco Growers organizes the "Puro Sabor" Tobacco Festival, which in previous years, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, was held virtually. This year (2023) a face-to-face event was held in a press conference with the Mayor of the municipality of Estelí. In addition, the Festival was promoted through El 19 Digital, an online news portal controlled by the Nicaraguan State Government.

5 TRANSPARENCY

The interaction found in digital publications between the different areas of the national and local government and the tobacco industry was related to the Tobacco Festival "Puro Sabor" 2023 edition, justified by the government as a necessary event to promote the export and import of cigars or cigars; therefore, in tobacco production areas it is considered important development in the promotion of tourism, the generation of jobs and stimulates the economy.

It is worth mentioning that, although there is a mandatory registration of tobacco companies operating in the interior of the country, it does not apply to those consulting entities (natural or legal) that could work in favor of their interests.

6 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

We found no documentation that the government has a legal framework to prohibit contributions from tobacco companies to organizations that contribute to their interests. Nor did we find evidence of participation in tobacco companies by retired national government officials or family members of current government officials.

7 PREVENTIVE MEASURES

This indicator achieved a score of 22, equivalent to 46.8% of the total score obtained. This is the result of not having found evidence related to the existence of a government policy that requires disclosure of interactions with tobacco companies, a specific code of conduct for public officials, a provision that requires tobacco companies to report their marketing expenditures/profits, a ministerial resolution that commits to raise awareness for the implementation of the guidelines of Article 5.3 WHO FCTC, and a provision that prevents tobacco companies' contributions of any kind to the government, its officials or their family members.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Design and implement a communication strategy to raise awareness on the application of the WHO FCTC Article 5.3 Guidelines, covered by Law No. 727, the Tobacco Control Law, through the National Tobacco Control Council.
2. Develop and implement a policy or regulation that regulates the conduct or participation of national or local public officials (mayors' offices) interacting with the tobacco industry.
3. That the National Authority of Sanitary Regulation dictates the mandatory registration of entities that act in favor of the tobacco industry interests.

Results and Findings

	0	1	2	3	4	5
INDICATOR 1: Level of Industry Participation in Policy-Development						
1. The government ⁷ accepts, supports or endorses any offer for assistance by or in collaboration with the tobacco industry or any entity or person working to further its interests. ⁸ in setting or implementing public health policies in relation to tobacco control ⁹ (Rec 3.4)	0					
A search of the websites and social networks of international and national tobacco companies, digital newspapers, government institutions and local governments (mayors' offices) where most of the tobacco companies are located revealed no evidence that the central government receives technical assistance from the tobacco industry for the development or implementation of public policies related to tobacco control.						
2. The government accepts, supports or endorses <u>policies or legislation drafted by</u> or in collaboration with the tobacco industry. (Rec 3.4)	0					
Through the investigation of the digital media of tobacco companies, governmental and non-governmental institutions, as well as local governments where the tobacco industry is concentrated in the country, we did not find any support that indicates that the central government has collaborated, supported or accepted any public policy or law developed by the tobacco industry.						
3. The government allows/invites the tobacco industry to sit in the government interagency/ multi-sectoral committee/ advisory group body that sets public health policy. (Rec 4.8) Never 5 Yes		1				
Throughout the information search process, it was not found any evidence that the tobacco industry is a member or participant in inter-institutional or multi-sectoral meetings with the central government. Law No. 727, "Tobacco Control Law", establishes the governmental institutions or civil society organizations that should participate in the National Council for Tobacco Control, and does not include representation of tobacco companies. The National Council is the body whose mandate is to promote actions aimed at strengthening surveillance and sanitary control to reduce the use, exposure and consumption of tobacco and its derivatives.						
4. The government nominates or allows representatives from the tobacco industry (including State-owned) in the delegation to the COP or other subsidiary bodies or accepts their sponsorship for delegates. (i.e. COP 4 & 5, INB 4 5, WG) ¹⁰ (Rec 4.9 & 8.3) For non-COP year, follow the previous score of COP year. For non-Parties, apply a score of '0'		1				

⁷ The term "government" refers to any public official whether or not acting within the scope of authority as long as cloaked with such authority or holding out to another as having such authority

⁸ The term, "tobacco industry" includes those representing its interests or working to further its interests, including the State-owned tobacco industry.

⁹ "Offer of assistance" may include draft legislation, technical input, recommendations, oversees study tour

¹⁰ Please annex a list since 2009 so that the respondent can quantify the frequency, <http://www.who.int/fctc/cop/en/>

	0	1	2	3	4	5
The virtual meeting of COP 9 was attended by government delegates, two from the Ministry of Development, Industry and Trade, one from the Ministry of Health and the ambassador and permanent representative. There is evidence of the non-participation of the tobacco industry representatives ¹¹ . (industry)						
INDICATOR 2: Industry CSR activities						
5. A. Government agencies or their officials endorse, support, form partnerships with or participate in activities of the tobacco industry described as “socially responsible” or “sustainable”. For example, environmental programs. (Rec 6.2)						
B. The government (its agencies and officials) receives CSR contributions ¹² (monetary or otherwise, including CSR contributions) from the tobacco industry or those working to further its interests during the pandemic. (Rec 6.4) NOTE: exclude enforcement activities as this is covered in another question	0					
<p>We found no evidence that government institutions and local governments (mayors' offices) accept, support or form alliances to participate in or organize CSR or CSR activities of the tobacco industry, nor that they receive donations in money or spices.</p> <p>There are environmental campaigns of the tobacco industry itself, carried out by volunteers. Such is the case of the Oliva Cigar Group, participating in the cleanup of the city of Estelí, using the slogan "We are quality, stability and social responsibility! We are Oliva Cigar Group!"¹³.</p>						
INDICATOR 3: Benefits to the Tobacco Industry						
6. The government accommodates requests from the tobacco industry for a longer time frame for implementation or postponement of tobacco control law. (e.g. 180 days is common for PHW, Tax increase can be implemented within 1 month) (Rec 7.1)		1				
<p>Not applicable. Through Ministerial Agreement 18-2022 published in La Gaceta, official gazette, the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, pursuant to Law No. 822, "Ley de Concertación Tributaria", updated the specific excise tax on cigarettes, cigars and other tobacco products. Said resolution was published on December 16, 2022 to be applied on January 1, 2023.</p> <p>It is evident that the government does not accept requests from the tobacco industry to delay the update of such tax, since it is applied annually as stipulated in Law 822.</p>						
7. The government gives privileges, incentives, tax exemptions or benefits to the tobacco industry (Rec 7.3)				3		

¹¹ <https://fctc.who.int/publications/m/item/cop-9-div-1-list-of-participants>

¹² political, social financial, educations, community, technical expertise or training to counter smuggling or any other forms of contributions

¹³ <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1955785484606403>

	0	1	2	3	4	5
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Through our research we found no evidence of specific government fiscal policies that grant privileges, incentives, exemptions or benefits to the tobacco industry.

The tobacco industry that works under the regime of "Free Trade Zone Operating Companies" enjoys tax benefits through Article 16 of Law No. 917. Export Free Zones Law. This law was not created for the exclusive benefit of the tobacco industry, but for all those companies that invest and export under the tax and customs regime.

International travelers can bring, as a duty free merchandise, into Nicaragua, 20 packets of cigarettes or 50 cigars or 500g of tobacco¹⁴.

INDICATOR 4: Forms of Unnecessary Interaction

8. Top level government officials (such as President/ Prime Minister or Minister ¹⁵) meet with/ foster relations with the tobacco companies such as attending social functions and other events sponsored or organized by the tobacco companies or those furthering its interests. (Rec 2.1)						5
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The Tenth Edition of the Tobacco Festival "Puro Sabor 2023", organized by the Nicaraguan Chamber of Tobacco Companies, was held in January of this year, split between two cities: Granada (Jan 23-24), and Estelí (Jan 25-27).

Although there was no evidence of the participation of high-level officials in the inauguration and closing of the event, El 19 Digital, an online news portal controlled by the Nicaraguan State Government, was dedicated to publicize the Tobacco Festival¹⁶.

9. The government accepts assistance/ offers of assistance from the tobacco industry on enforcement such as conducting raids on tobacco smuggling or enforcing smoke free policies or no sales to minors. (including monetary contribution for these activities) (Rec 4.3)	0					
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None of the sources consulted provided evidence that the government accepts assistance or proposed assistance from the tobacco industry to comply with tobacco control regulations.

10. The government accepts, supports, endorses, or enters into partnerships or non-binding agreements with the tobacco industry or any entity working to further its interests. (Rec 3.1) NOTE: This must <u>not</u> involve CSR, enforcement activity, or tobacco control policy development since these are already covered in the previous questions.				3		
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Prior to the Tenth Edition of the Tobacco Festival "Puro Sabor 2023", organized by the Nicaraguan Chamber of Tobacco Growers, a press conference was held with the participation of the Mayor (local government) of the municipality of Estelí, where the largest number of tobacco producing companies in the country are concentrated.

¹⁴ <https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/NI-Nicaragua-customs-currency-airport-tax-regulations-summary.htm>

¹⁵ Includes immediate members of the families of the high-level officials

¹⁶ <https://www.el19digital.com/articulos/ver/titulo:136137-decima-edicion-del-festival-de-tabaco-puro-sabor-2023>

Mr. Francisco Ramón Valenzuela said: "As municipal authorities of Estelí it is very important for us to organize this type of events, because national and foreign visitors use the lodgings and buy all the gastronomy". adding: "The factories that produce cigars in Estelí provide more than 50 thousand jobs. In the event we will coordinate with the National Police to provide security".

The Harvest schedule for the years 2023-2024 indicates that tobacco production should be 179 tons of branch and exports of 299 tons¹⁷.



Francisco Ramón Valenzuela, Mayor of Estelí, (third from left to right)¹⁸

The Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Labor endorse tobacco production in Nicaragua.

For the period under review, no evidence for the central government was found on this item in the exploration of the sources present on the Internet and social networks.

INDICATOR 5: Transparency

11. The government does not publicly disclose meetings/ interactions with the tobacco industry in cases where such interactions are strictly necessary for regulation. (Rec 2.2)				3		
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It cannot be assured that the national and local government (Mayor's Office) do not publicly disclose meetings or interactions with tobacco companies addressing issues of regulation on the use, abuse, exposure and consumption of tobacco products.

The only evidence of interaction between the national and local governments and tobacco companies is when the "Puro Sabor" Tobacco Festival, organized by the Nicaraguan Chamber of Tobacco to promote the export and import of cigars, is going to be held with

¹⁷<https://www.mag.gob.ni/index.php?view=article&id=66:produccion-de-tabaco-nicaragueense&catid=11&highlight=WyJ0YWJhY28iXQ==>

¹⁸ Alcaldía de Estelí en Instagram: "Conferencia de Prensa, décima edición del Festival Internacional Tabaco "Puro Sabor 2023 " Cámara Nicaragüense de Tabacaleros. #Esteli"

	0	1	2	3	4	5
the excuse of promoting tourism, generating jobs and boosting the economy in tobacco production areas, especially in the municipality of Estelí.						
For the period under review, no evidence of interaction between the central government and tobacco companies was found on this item in the exploration of the sources present on the Internet and social networks.						
12. The government requires rules for the disclosure or registration of tobacco industry entities, affiliated organizations, and individuals acting on their behalf including lobbyists (Rec 5.3)				3		
<p>Law No. 727, "Law for Tobacco Control", in its regulation (article 14) establishes the registration of manufacturers and importers of tobacco products as a mandatory and indispensable requirement for the performance of any action or procedure aimed at the importation of tobacco products.</p> <p>In Ministerial Resolution No. 334-2021, approved on June 28, 2021, the Ministry of Health approves the requirements and procedures for the sanitary registration of tobacco products. In its Chapter II it establishes the requirements for the registration of manufacturers, exporters, distributors and importers of tobacco products and their accessories, requesting the data of the establishment; description of the manufacturing, exporting, distributing and importing establishment; data of the legal representative; data of the responsible professional; attached documents for manufacturing establishment; and attached documents for exporting, distributing and importing establishment.</p> <p>However, this resolution does not provide for the registration of affiliated organizations or lobbying groups that are in favor of the interests of the tobacco industry.</p>						
INDICATOR 6: Conflict of Interest						
13. The government does not prohibit contributions from the tobacco industry or any entity working to further its interests to political parties, candidates, or campaigns or to require full disclosure of such contributions. (Rec 4.11) Never 5 Yes						5
<p>For the present period of investigation, the government still does not have any prohibition by law.</p> <p>Complementary norms to Law No. 727, Law for the Control of Tobacco and Law No. 331, Electoral Law with Incorporated Reforms, were reviewed.</p>						
14. Retired senior government officials form part of the tobacco industry (former Prime Minister, Minister, Attorney General) (Rec 4.4)	0					
During the review on the different social media platforms we found no evidence of performance of retired senior officials in the tobacco industry.						
15. <u>Current government officials</u> and relatives hold positions in the tobacco business including consultancy positions. (Rec 4.5, 4.8, 4.10)	0					

	0	1	2	3	4	5
We found no evidence that government officials or family members hold positions as tobacco industry managers.						
INDICATOR 7: Preventive Measures						
16. The government has put in place a procedure for disclosing the records of the interaction (such as agenda, attendees, minutes and outcome) with the tobacco industry and its representatives. (Rec 5.1)						5
<p>Found no evidence of an existing, developing or committed policy to disclose interactions with the tobacco industry.</p> <p>To this end, we reviewed the different social platforms of government institutions involved in the administration of public finances; or that their work will be to promote domestic and foreign investment opportunities or to promote the proper functioning and stability of the financial system.</p> <p>Additionally, we explored the networks linked to government institutions that are members of the National Council for Tobacco Control, established by Law No. 727, and found no evidence of the existence, development or commitment of a policy to disclose interactions with the tobacco industry.</p>						
17. The government has formulated, adopted or implemented a code of conduct for public officials, prescribing the standards with which they should comply in their dealings with the tobacco industry. (Rec 4.2); 1 for whole of government code; 2 for Yes but partial if only MOH						5
<p>There is a Code of Ethical Conduct for Public Servants of the Executive Branch approved by Executive Decree No. 35-2009, on May 28, 2009, which regulates the conduct in the exercise of their functions, to prevent acts that affect the interests of the State in accordance with the provisions of the Political Constitution and other laws on the matter.</p> <p>There was no evidence of a specific code for public officials that establishes general and specific provisions on the conduct to be followed when interacting with the tobacco industry.</p> <p>While the government's latest report to the COP on implementation of WHO FCTC states they are implementing Article 5.3, they provide no details on how this is done¹⁹.</p>						
18. The government requires the tobacco industry to periodically submit information on tobacco production, manufacture, market share, marketing expenditures, revenues and any other activity, including lobbying, philanthropy, political contributions and all other activities. (5.2)			2			
<p>It is inferred from the website of the Ministry of Agriculture, a governmental institution, that the tobacco industry reports on production, manufacturing activity and its participation in foreign trade.</p> <p>In September 2022, the General Directorate of Customs Services issued Technical Circular Number 116/2022 on the Prohibition of the import and export of electronic cigarettes and</p>						

¹⁹ https://untobaccocontrol.org/implied/wp-content/uploads/Nicaragua_2020_WHO_FCTC_report.pdf

	0	1	2	3	4	5
<p>other control measures on the import of tobacco. According to this Circular, importers and exporters of tobacco must be registered with the Health Regulation Directorate in charge of health regulation, in addition to having the Health Registration Certificate of the products. If they do not comply with this requirement, the customs clearance of this type of goods will not be carried out²⁰.</p> <p>However, no evidence was found that the tobacco industry is required to report on marketing expenditures, profits or other activities that contribute to its commercial interests.</p>						
<p>19. The government has a program / system/ plan to consistently²¹ raise awareness within its departments on policies relating to FCTC Article 5.3 Guidelines. (Rec 1.1, 1.2)</p>						5
<p>In the research in the digital media of government institutions, in the established period, we found no ministerial decree or resolution indicating that there is a program or commitment to raise awareness for the implementation of the guidelines of Article 5.3 FCTC of the WHO.</p> <p>The government does not provide any details on how they are consistently raising awareness within its departments on Article 5.3 in the report submitted to the COP.</p> <p>(https://untobaccocontrol.org/impldb/wp-content/uploads/Nicaragua_2020_WHOFCtCreport.pdf)</p>						
<p>20. The government has put in place a policy to disallow the acceptance of all forms of contributions/ gifts from the tobacco industry (monetary or otherwise) including offers of assistance, policy drafts, or study visit invitations given or offered to the government, its agencies, officials and their relatives. (3.4)</p>						5
<p>The legal framework explored on the matter and that rules the actions of government institutions, as well as in the independent and pro-government digital media; no information was found on any explicit provision that prevents the acceptance of any contribution or collaboration from the tobacco industry to the government, its officials or their relatives.</p>						
TOTAL SCORE						50

²⁰ <https://ariaslaw.com/en/news-in/nicaragua--ban-on-the-import-and-export-of-electronic-cigarettes-and-imposition-of-measures-on-tobacco-imports>

²¹ For purposes of this question, "consistently" means: a. Each time the FCTC is discussed, 5.3 is explained. AND b. Whenever the opportunity arises such when the tobacco industry intervention is discovered or reported.

References

1. Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) Nicaragua 2019 Fact Sheet (who.int)
2. Tabaquismo en Nicaragua — Estado mundial de la reducción del daño del tabaco (gsthr.org)
3. The term “government” refers to any public official whether or not acting within the scope of authority as long as cloaked with such authority or holding out to another as having such authority
4. The term, “tobacco industry’ includes those representing its interests or working to further its interests, including the State-owned tobacco industry.
5. “Offer of assistance” may include draft legislation, technical input, recommendations, oversees study tour
6. Please annex a list since 2009 so that the respondent can quantify the frequency, <http://www.who.int/fctc/cop/en/>
7. Political, social financial, educations, community, technical expertise or training to counter smuggling or any other forms of contributions
8. Include immediate members of the families of the high-level officials
9. Alcaldía de Estelí en Instagram: “Conferencia de Prensa, décima edición del Festival Internacional Tabaco "Puro Sabor 2023 " Cámara Nicaragüense de Tabacaleros. #Esteli”
10. Se aprueban los requisitos y procedimientos de registro sanitario de los productos del tabaco (asamblea.gob.ni)
11. <http://legislacion.asamblea.gob.ni/normaweb.nsf/b92aaea87dac762406257265005d21f7/1d93cd4eaf137dac0625765c006f6a87?OpenDocument>
12. Tabaco en Nicaragua fortaleció la economía con 55.7 millones de dólares en 2022 (mag.gob.ni)
13. For purposes of this question, “consistently” means: a. Each time the FCTC is discussed, 5.3 is explained. AND b. Whenever the opportunity arises such when the tobacco industry intervention is discovered or reported.

I. ANNEX A: SOURCES OF INFORMATION

I. TOBACCO INDUSTRY ACTIVITY

Top 5 Transnational Tobacco Company	Sources other than SEATCA Report
British American Tobacco (BAT) Central America	There is no information about Nicaragua on their website. https://www.bat.com
Philip Morris International (PMI)	There is no information about Nicaragua on their website. https://www.pmi.com

*Note: We did not find relevant country specific information.

LOCAL TOBACCO COMPANIES

Top 5 Local Tobacco Company	Market Share and Brands	Source
Nick's Cigars World	Nica rustica el brujito toro, asylum 13 Nicaragua 652.	https://nicks cigarworld.com/product-category/premium-cigars/?filtering=1&filter_product_brand=1484
Agroindustrial Nic de Tabacos S.A	Belleau Wood, Lampert, Reblended Omar Ortez, Nat Cicco	AgroIndustrial Nicaraguense de Tabacos S.A. Archives media rueda (halfwheel.com)
Plasencia	Plasencia año del Buey, Alma Fuerte	Cigar Review: Plasencia Año del Buey - Plasencia Cigars
Joya Cigars	Número Uno, Cinco Décadas, Antaño 1970, entre otros.	Nuestros Puros - Joya de Nicaragua (joyacigars.com)
Perdomo Cigars, S.A Nicaragua	Habano Bourbon Barrel Aged Maduro, Double Aged Vintage 12 yr Maduro	Perdomo – Habano Bourbon Barrel Aged Maduro – Humo y Tabaco

* NOTE: We did not find information on their participation in the domestic market; cigars or cigars are mainly sold in the foreign market.

I. News Sources

Top 5 Newspaper/Dailies*	Type (Print/Online)	
El 19 digital	Online	El 19 Digital - Portal de Noticias de Nicaragua
La Prensa	Online	La Prensa - Noticias de Nicaragua y el mundo (laprensani.com)
Nicaragua Investiga	Online	https://nicaraguainvestiga.com/
100% Noticias	Online	https://100noticias.com.ni/

*Basis of Ranking: Circulation Popularity Others: _____
 Ranking Authority/ies: _____

2. Government Agencies (Refer also to Annex A)

Agency	General Sources of Information/ News for each office
1. Office of the Chief Executive (Prime Minister/ President) Members of Royalty	N/A
2. Cabinet and/or National Assembly (Policy makers)	N/A
3. Agriculture / National Tobacco Board	N/A
4. Customs	N/A
5. Education	N/A
6. Environment	N/A
7. Finance/ Revenue/ Investments/ Excise	N/A
8. Health	https://www.minsa.gob.ni/index.php/component/content/article/113-noticias-2023/7789-campana-nacional-de-promocion-de-salud-y-vida-juventud-divino-tesoro https://www.minsa.gob.ni/index.php/component/content/article/113-noticias-2023/7787-ministerio-de-salud-plan-escuelas-saludables-2023
9. Labor	http://www.mitrab.gob.ni/news/nota-110-2022/?searchterm=TABACALERA http://www.mitrab.gob.ni/news/nota-68-2022/?searchterm=TABACALERA http://www.mitrab.gob.ni/news/nota-129-2021/?searchterm=TABACALERA
10. Trade and Industry/ Investments	N/A
Additional agencies/sectors to be named per country:	N/A