Global Center for Good Governance in Tobacco Control
STOP. A GLOBAL TOBACCO INDUSTRY WATCHDOG

Chad

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. Industry Participation in Policy Development

Under Decree No. 1523 on the Prevention of Tobacco Industry Interference, the government prohibits any support from the tobacco industry (TI) in policy development. No offers of support have been disclosed. No TI representatives sit on the National Tobacco Control Committee (CNLT), and the government does not accept TI representatives in delegations to the COP.

2. Industry CSR Activities

Between April 2023 and March 2025, there were no corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities sponsored by the TI.

3. Benefits to the Industry

A cigarette importer submitted a request for a six-month exemption to import and sell cigarette packs bearing old health warnings. Following a negative opinion from the National Tobacco Control Committee, the request was rejected.

The Transitional National Council (the provisional Parliament) passed the 2024 Finance Law, which reduced the specific tax on tobacco products to 50 XAF per pack of cigarettes, down from 100 XAF. The 2025 Finance Law maintained this provision, setting the specific tax at 50 XAF per pack.

4. Unnecessary Interaction

The Minister of Public Health held a meeting with managers of SEGUM, a cigarette importing company, without the presence of civil society representatives.

The Director General of the Chad Tobacco Manufacturing Company (MCT) expressed support to the Directorate General of Customs and Indirect Duties in efforts to curb tobacco product smuggling.

5. Transparency

Decree No. 1523 states: "The relations between the State and the TI must be governed by the principle of transparency." However, in practice, the Minister of Commerce met with the Director General of MCT without disclosing the report from the meeting.

6. Conflict of Interest

Decree No. 1523 does not mention contributions to political parties or campaigns among the prohibited activities, and the Electoral Code does not prohibit TI funding.

The prohibitions apply mainly to public officials who have held responsibilities related to health or taxation, who are barred from working for the TI for up to five years after leaving public service.

The current President of the National Employers' Council of Chad is also Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Social Security Fund (CNPS) and was formerly Deputy Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic. The Employers' Council is known to be a close ally of the TI.

7. Preventive Measures

Article 6 of Decree No. 1523 on the Prevention of Tobacco Industry Interference sets rules to be followed in all meetings between the State and the TI. Any meeting with a representative of public authority, regardless of the sector, must be made public. The decree also addresses the code of conduct governing interactions with the TI and specifies the information the TI must include in semi-annual reports submitted to ministries involved in tobacco control.

All financial contributions, donations, favors, or gifts from the TI are prohibited.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Increase awareness campaigns on Decree No. 1523 at both central and provincial levels to ensure consistent understanding and implementation.
2. Require the submission of periodic reports by the TI to enable ministries involved in tobacco control to monitor activities, report violations, and take necessary measures.
3. Prohibit political financing by the TI.
4. Raise the specific tax on tobacco products to 100 XAF per pack of cigarettes to generate sufficient resources for public health and tobacco control.
5. Implement effective measures against illicit trade by enforcing fiscal marking requirements, training customs officers on tobacco product smuggling, and suppressing fraud in accordance with the law.
6. Strengthen enforcement of the tobacco control legislative framework by increasing training sessions, particularly on Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC for stakeholders, and by conducting public awareness campaigns.