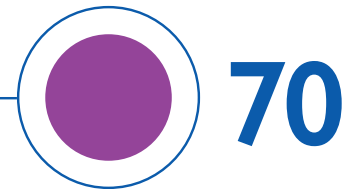


# Honduras



## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### 1. Industry Participation in Policy Development

No evidence has been found that the government allows or invites the tobacco industry (TI) to participate in inter-institutional platforms, multisectoral committees, or advisory bodies where public health policies are established. However, a Honduran tobacco company is part of the National Association of Industrialists of Honduras (ANDI), which itself is a member of the Honduran Council of Private Enterprise (COHEP). COHEP participates in multisectoral tables, creating potential indirect connections that provide opportunities for TI involvement in public policy discussions.

### 2. Industry CSR Activities

Philip Morris International (PMI) promotes its global vision for a “smoke-free future,” which is reflected in Honduras’ decision to allow the commercialization of smoke-free tobacco products. PMI highlights its investment of over \$12.5 billion in developing these products, presenting them as less harmful alternatives and advocating for their wider adoption. However, this initiative functions as a form of corporate social responsibility (CSR), aimed at improving the TI’s public image. Honduras’ participation in PMI’s vision signals a degree of acceptance or collaboration with TI-framed CSR activities.

### 3. Benefits to the Industry

The government has granted tax benefits to the TI, particularly through the Free Zones (ZOLI) regime. In 2023, My Father Cigars benefited from tax exemptions, demonstrating that Honduras’ legal framework does not

exclude the TI from incentive regimes such as ZOLI, ZIP, or RINDE. This practice poses risks of noncompliance with Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC.

In March 2025, My Father Cigars invested \$20 million to establish the largest tobacco plant in Honduras. The project received full backing from the government through the National Investment Council, underscoring institutional support for the expansion of TI operations in the country.

### 4. Unnecessary Interaction

The Honduran government has actively promoted the TI, particularly in the eastern region where new processing plants have been established under the ZOLI regime. The inauguration of the Maya Selva Cigars plant in Danlí in March 2025 was attended by high-ranking officials, including the Private Secretary of the Presidency (the President’s son) and the President of the National Congress.

Overall, the government has developed a close relationship with the TI. Although no formal written agreements exist, alliances and collaborations have emerged that favor industry interests and risk undermining international tobacco control guidelines.

### 5. Transparency

Honduras implemented the Special Registration and Certification Regulation under Agreement No. 01-2022 of the Honduran Institute for the Prevention of Alcoholism, Drug Addiction, and Drug Dependence (IHADFA). The regulation requires all establishments involved in the import, manufacture, export, distribution, storage, and marketing of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, pharmaceuticals,



narcotics, and other controlled substances to obtain a registration certificate from IHADFA.

The process includes inspections to ensure compliance, and failure to complete documentation within legal deadlines may result in cancellation. Certificates are valid for one, two, or four years, depending on the resolution, and must be renewed two months before expiration. Late renewals are subject to additional fees and interest as stipulated by the Civil Code.

## 6. Conflict of Interest

The Law on Financing, Transparency, and Oversight of Political Parties and Candidates (Decree No. 137-2016) does not explicitly prohibit contributions from the TI. The Financing, Transparency, and Oversight Unit (UFTF) has not identified TI contributions in reports submitted by candidates or political parties, though reviews of filings remain ongoing.

Under Agreement No. 001-2023-UFTF and IAIP Resolution SO-086-2018, personal data of contributors and financial contribution databases are classified as confidential. As a result, even if TI contributions were detected, the UFTF could not publicly disclose this information due to data protection rules.

## 7. Preventive Measures

Although Honduras has been a Party to the WHO FCTC since 2005, it has not adopted specific procedures to publicly disclose records of interactions with the TI or its representatives. While the government maintains a transparency portal through the Institute for Access to Public Information and participates in an Open Government initiative, compliance with Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC has not been prioritized.