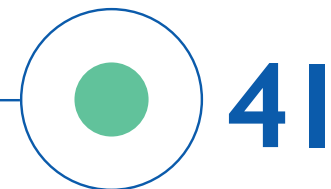


Uganda



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. Industry Participation in Policy Development

Contrary to Section 20 of the Tobacco Control Act (TCA), the tobacco industry (TI) was able to present its position on taxing tobacco products to the Parliamentary Committee on Finance, Planning, and Economic Development during the finalization of the 2025 tax amendment bills.

2. Industry CSR Activities

Although the TCA clearly bans tobacco-related corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities, a TI-funded international NGO, the Elimination of Child Labour in Tobacco Growing Foundation (ECLT), continues to fund activities in Uganda that are endorsed by district government and trade unions. British American Tobacco (BAT) also donated a cigarette destruction machine to the Uganda Revenue Authority to support the national fight against illicit cigarette trade.

3. Benefits to the Industry

The Uganda Customs, Currency, and Airport Tax Regulations still allow international travelers to bring 250 grams of tobacco into the country tax free.

4. Unnecessary Interaction

The government has not yet established guidelines for disclosing records of interactions with the TI and its representatives, including agendas, attendees, minutes, and outcomes. However, draft guidelines addressing this requirement are currently pending review and approval.

5. Transparency

The disclosure of meetings is provided for in the TCA, but there is no record of such disclosures in the current reporting period.

6. Conflict of Interest

There is no evidence of retired senior officers joining the TI. Part VIII of the TCA prohibits government officials who contribute or may contribute to the formulation, implementation, administration, enforcement, or monitoring of public health policies related to tobacco control from engaging in any occupational activity with the TI, including consultancy positions.

7. Preventive Measures

The government has not established a procedure for disclosing records of interactions (such as agendas, attendees, minutes, and outcomes) with the TI and its representatives in the TCA, nor is this reflected in current tobacco control regulations.



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Implement the guidelines for documenting interactions with the TI and its representatives, including records such as letters requesting meetings with government ministries or agencies, agendas, attendee lists, minutes, and outcomes.
2. Adopt and enforce penalties for unnecessary interactions with the TI and its representatives.
3. Enhance awareness regarding the provisions of the TCA and ensure that all relevant ministries, departments, and authorities understand the limitations when engaging with the TI.
4. Remove the duty-free allowance for tobacco products granted to international travelers, as this serves as an incentive for the TI and is inconsistent with Section 23 of the TCA.
5. Appoint additional tobacco control enforcement officers under the authority granted to the Minister of Health by Section 26 of the TCA to strengthen enforcement and monitoring of the TI. Prohibit partnerships such as BAT's donation of a cigarette destruction machine to the Uganda Revenue Authority to avoid potential conflicts of interest.
6. Implement Article 19 of the WHO FCTC, in collaboration with tobacco control advocates and other relevant stakeholders, to ensure that the TI is held legally accountable for violations of the TCA.
7. Adopt a code of conduct applicable to all public servants in ministries and government agencies to ensure alignment with the formulation and implementation of public health policies related to tobacco control.
8. Revive TI monitoring to strengthen oversight and support the effective implementation of the TCA and its supporting regulations.