Executive Summary

Latin America and the Caribbean Regional **Tobacco Industry Interference** Index 2025

Fourth edition

Tobacco causes more than seven million deaths annually, prompting increased government and public health efforts to reduce tobacco use in the face of ongoing interference from the tobacco industry. The 2025 Regional Interference Index, coordinated by Corporate Accountability and the GGTC, assesses the implementation of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC in 19 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, promoting collaboration between governments and civil society to strengthen anti-tobacco policies.

The 2025 Regional Interference Index reveals that the tobacco industry (TI) continues to influence public health policy in Latin America and the Caribbean, with an increase in interference in 11 countries and improvements in only seven. Mexico ranks as the country with the least interference, while the Dominican Republic remains the most affected. The results show setbacks in the exclusion of TI from policy development and persistent links with government agencies through corporate social responsibility activities, tax benefits, and unnecessary interaction with officials. Lack of transparency and conflicts of interest remain a widespread problem, especially in the Dominican Republic, Bolivia, and Colombia. On the other hand, Mexico, Peru, Panama, and Brazil stand out for adopting preventive and regulatory measures that limit the industry's influence. The region still faces significant challenges in fully complying with the guidelines of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC.

> *"WHO FCTC, a global public health treaty, includes particular obligations on governments to protect public health from the vested and commercial interests of the tobacco industry. Governments repeatedly report that interference by the tobacco industry is among the most significant barriers to making progress on tobacco control. The Tobacco Industry Interference Index reveals the extent of this problem and how countries around the world are impacted."*
>
> Andrew Black
> Acting Head of the Secretariat of the WHO FCTC

Recommendations

1. **Strategic communication and intersectoral awareness:** Institutionalize campaigns targeting all government sectors to protect tobacco control policies from industry interference, in accordance with Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC. In addition, sustained education and communication strategies are recommended to raise public awareness about the effects of tobacco and industry tactics, such as marketing, misinformation, and the use of corporate social responsibility to gain government endorsement.

2. **Governance, institutional integrity, and regulation of interaction with tobacco industry:** Implement a transparent government policy requiring all government sectors to reject partnerships with the tobacco industry, limit interactions to only when strictly necessary, and make all communications or collaborations public. Furthermore, adopt a binding code of conduct to protect officials from undue industry influence, in accordance with the WHO FCTC.

3. **Regulation and supervision of the tobacco industry:** Establish clear regulations requiring the tobacco industry to disclose information about its products, marketing, and finances, with verifiable reports and penalties for non-compliance. Furthermore, phase out incentives and subsidies for the industry, including tax breaks. Tobacco-related corporate social responsibility activities should be prohibited as they are a form of promotion.

4. **Monitoring, surveillance, and accountability:** Establish institutional monitoring and evaluation systems for tobacco control, through public observatories, reporting platforms, and monitoring compliance with Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC. Furthermore, the initiative seeks to strengthen civil society's participation in tobacco control policies and implement legal accountability mechanisms to sanction interference, non-compliance, or corruption linked to the industry.

5. **National cooperation:** to enhance the implementation of the WHO FCTC, with budget, legal powers, and technical capacity.

6. **Ratification and strengthening of international commitments:** Argentina and the Dominican Republic are urged to accede to the WHO FCTC to strengthen their commitment to public health; in addition to proposing to strengthen regional commitment by ratifying the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco, to improve traceability, prevent smuggling and tax evasion, and strengthen health policies.

Results Summary

Rank	Country	Score
21	Mexico	48
26	Chile	52
26	Uruguay	52
33	Panama	54
33	Venezuela	54
43	Peru	56
47	Nicaragua	58
48	Jamaica	59
56	Costa Rica	64
59	Brazil	65
63	Ecuador	68
63	El Salvador	68
63	Guatemala	68
68	Honduras	70
82	Bolivia	76
87	Argentina	79
87	Paraguay	79
89	Colombia	80
100	Dominican Republic	98

The lower the score, the better the ranking

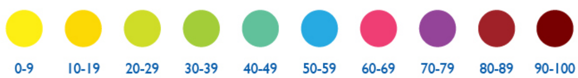

Figure 1. Total score of the Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2025.
GGTC, Global Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2025

General Results

The 2025 Regional Interference Index shows that the tobacco industry continues to influence public policy in all Latin American and Caribbean countries, with an overall increase in interference compared to previous indices. **Eleven countries** showed an increase in their scores, while seven achieved improvements in their strategies to reduce interference. **Mexico stands out as the country with the least interference** and the best control policies, **followed by Panama, while the Dominican Republic maintains the highest level of interference for the third consecutive index.**

Specific Results

Level of industry participation in government policy-making

Ten countries slipped in compliance with Article 5.3, demonstrating **increased** tobacco industry interference. **Nicaragua** and **Uruguay** stand out for their **good practices**, while **Colombia, Brazil, and Guatemala** exhibit **high levels** of interference.

Tobacco Industry connects with governments through corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities

Peru, Panama, and **Chile** have shown **progress** in limiting the tobacco industry's social responsibility practices, although they persist at the sub-national level in Chile. In contrast, **Bolivia**, the **Dominican Republic**, and **El Salvador** maintain **close collaboration** with the TI. In **Nicaragua**, government participation in the promotion of tobacco is observed.

Benefits given to the Tobacco Industry

Many countries continue to provide incentives and tax benefits to the tobacco industry. **Venezuela** and Mexico demonstrate **good practices**, while **Argentina, Bolivia**, and the **Dominican Republic** maintain **high levels** of interference by implementing industry-friendly policies, such as tax exemptions and tobacco promotion at trade events.

Forms of unnecessary interaction

Unnecessary interaction between governments and the tobacco industry persists **in the region,** especially in **Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia**, and **El Salvador**. In contrast, **Costa Rica, Mexico**, and **Jamaica** stand out for maintaining **greater** distancing and limiting these interactions to a minimum.

Lack of transparency when interacting with the industry

Specific transparency regulations for the tobacco industry are **still** lacking in the **region. Venezuela,** the **Dominican Republic**, and **Paraguay** are **highly** opaque in their interactions with the industry, while **Chile** and **Mexico** stand out for having general lobbying regulations. The lack of oversight in **Colombia** and **Bolivia** facilitates agreements with the industry without public oversight.

Conflict of interest situations persist

Conflicts of interest between governments and the tobacco industry **persist** in Latin America and the Caribbean. While **Uruguay**, **Costa Rica**, and **Venezuela** have made regulatory progress, **Peru, Jamaica, Bolivia,** and especially the **Dominican Republic** experience **high** levels of political interference and little regulation of financial contributions from the industry or its ties to public officials.

Precautionary measures prevent industry influence

Brazil, Panama, and **Peru** implement **good practices** to limit tobacco industry interference, although they still have legal loopholes. In contrast, **Guatemala, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic lack clear transparency standards**, which facilitate industry influence and weaken compliance with Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC.

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The Regional Index is part of the Global Tobacco Industry Interference Index (Global Tobacco Index), which ranks countries based on a global civil society survey of how governments are responding to tobacco industry influences and protecting their public health policies from commercial interests, as required by the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC).

The Global Tobacco Index, originally initiated by the Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA), is produced by the Global Centre for Good Governance on Tobacco Control (GGTC) with support from Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Website: https://globaltobaccoindex.org/regions/latin-america

Contact us

If the reader has information that could strengthen this report, please contact us:: tobaccocampaign@corporateaccountability.org

Coordinator

Corporate Accountability, Tobacco Control Campaign (Latin American Program).

Authors

Daniela Valdivieso, Daniel Dorado & Jaime Arcila.

Collaborators

Argentina: Fundación Interamericana del Corazón (FIC Argentina). Bolivia: Fundación Bolivia Saludable. Brazil: ACT Promoção da Saúde (ACT), Centro de Estudos sobre Tabaco e Saúde / Escola Nacional de Saúde Pública Sergio Arouca / Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Cetab/ENSP/Fiocruz). Chile: Chile Libre de Tabaco. Colombia: Corporación Colombiana de Padres y Madres (Red PaPaz). Costa Rica: Red Nacional Antitabaco (RENATA). El Salvador: Centro para la Defensa del Consumidor (CDC). Ecuador: Fundación Ecuatoriana de Salud Respiratoria (FESAR), Alianza Antitabaco Ecuador, Alianza Juvenil Antitabaco Ecuador y Corporate Accountability-Programa para América Latina Guatemala: Guatemala Saludable. Honduras: Centro de Promoción en Salud y Asistencia Familiar (CEPROSAF). Jamaica: Jamaica Coalition on Tobacco Control. Mexico: Salud Justa Mx. Nicaragua: Consultores. Panama: Facultad de Economía de la Universidad de Panamá. Paraguay: Enfoque Territorial. Peru: Comisión

Nacional Permanente de Lucha Antitabáquica (COLAT). Dominican Republic: Alianza Dominicana Antitabaquismo. Uruguay: Organización Multidisciplinaria para la Integración Social (OMIS). Venezuela: Asociación Civil Tabaco o Salud, ACITASVE.

Disclaimer

The references in this Executive Summary can be validated by consulting: Valdivieso, D., Dorado, D., Arcila, J., Latin America and the Caribbean Tobacco Industry Interference. Index 2025. Fourth Edition. Corporate Accountability.

About Corporate Accountability (www.corporateaccountability.org)

It is a non-governmental organization that prevents transnational corporations from devastating democracy, violating human rights, and destroying our planet.

About GGTC (https://ggtc.world/)

The Global Center for Good Governance in Tobacco Control (GGTC) collaborates with advocates, governments, and institutions worldwide to address the single greatest obstacle in tobacco control implementation – tobacco industry interference – by applying WHO FCTC Article 5.3.