

Tanzania

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Summary of Findings

1. Industry participation in policy development

The Tobacco Products (Regulations) Act 2003 and Tobacco Products Regulations 2014 are not compliant with the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). Efforts to enact a new law these past years have been delayed due to accommodating the tobacco industry's concerns. Since 2017, the Ministry of Health Community Development, Gender Elderly and Children (MoHCDEG) proposed to table a tobacco control bill but to date this has not materialized. With no ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorship the industry launched new promotions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Industry CSR activities

Tobacco-related corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities are not banned and are continuously increasing with government officials and members of parliament participating in these activities and commending the industry for its "continued economic and social contribution to the country."

3. Benefits to the industry

Tanzania Cigarette Company (TCC) attributed its good performance partly to the continued public-private partnership (PPP). The delay in tabling the tobacco control bill in Parliament has benefited the tobacco industry to increase cigarette sales. In the 2020 Budget Speech, for the first time ever, there was no mention at all of taxes on tobacco products.

4. Unnecessary interaction

Article 5.3 Guidelines indicate interaction between government officials and the tobacco industry should be only when strictly necessary, however this is not the case with industry activities on the ground. The TCC commended the government for "holding regular private-public dialogue (PPD) to discuss private sector concerns."

5. Transparency

The government has not put in place a procedure to disclose its meetings with the tobacco industry. While tobacco companies are required to register, there is no registry for tobacco industry affiliated organizations and individuals acting on their behalf such as lobbyists.

6. Conflict of interest

The TCC Non-Executive Chairman of the Board is also Chairman of Tanzania Start Up Association (TSUA) and a Board Member of the Tanzania Confederation of Industries (TCI), while Finance, Investment and Planning Manager at Tanzania Standard Newspapers (TSN), a government-owned paper, was a member of the Board of Directors of TCC until September 2020. He was then appointed Finance and Administration Manager in the Copyright Society of Tanzania (COSOTA) since October 2020. Both men have great influence and can easily lobby. The government does not prohibit contributions from the tobacco industry.

7. Preventive measures

The government does not have a program or plan to consistently raise awareness within its departments on policies relating to FCTC Article 5.3 Guidelines. The government has not 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.

The government does not require the tobacco industry to periodically submit information on tobacco production, manufacture, market share, marketing expenditures, revenues and other activity such as philanthropy. The government has not put in place a policy to disallow the acceptance of all forms of contributions/gifts from the tobacco industry.

Recommendations

Lack of an FCTC-compliant tobacco control law has given leeway to the tobacco industry to operate freely in Tanzania. Since 2018, tobacco advertising especially at points of sale and promotion has increased exponentially, targeting particularly the youth.

Foreign companies are promoting their products using young celebrities luring them into smoking. Guiding Principles of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC require Parties to observe the following:

- Establish measures to limit interaction with the tobacco industry and ensure transparency of those interactions that occur;
- Reject partnerships and non-binding or non-enforceable agreements with the tobacco industry; and
- Avoid conflict of interest for government officials and employees.

To fulfil its obligations under the WHO FCTC, the government must table in Parliament an FCTC-compliant tobacco control bill as soon as possible, to protect the public, in particular children and vulnerable sectors of society, from the damages emanating from tobacco use.

Tobacco-related CSR activities must be banned, as stated in the FCTC and, to ensure transparency, there must be clearly documented procedures for government officials to record all interactions where strictly necessary with the tobacco industry.

The cost-benefit analysis of tobacco business is more people suffer and die from tobacco use than any benefit it is believed to bring to the economy. People's health must be protected. Therefore, the tobacco industry should not be given any incentive to increase its business. Tobacco taxes must be raised to protect vulnerable groups (youth and the poor), reduce tobacco-related diseases and increase government revenue.

Finally, a code of conduct must be developed for government officials, to provide guidance on dealing with the tobacco industry when strictly necessary. The code will stop government officials from endorsing tobacco-related activities and the tobacco industry.