

# Tanzania



## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### 1. Industry Participation in Policy Development

Tobacco industry (TI) interference has worsened in several areas compared to 2023. The Tobacco Products (Regulations) Act 2003 and Tobacco Products Regulations 2014 are not compliant with the WHO FCTC. Efforts to enact a new law in recent years have been delayed due to accommodating TI requests. Since 2017, the Ministry of Health has proposed a tobacco control bill, but it has not yet been tabled. The absence of a WHO FCTC-compliant law, combined with limited support from top government leadership, has provided the TI greater leeway to scale up its advertising, promotion, and sponsorship activities, alongside increased tobacco production and trade.

### 2. Industry CSR Activities

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities by the TI are not prohibited and have increased significantly, with top government officials and other leaders participating in these initiatives and publicly commending the industry for its “continued economic and social contribution to the country.”

### 3. Benefits to the Industry

The government provides significant support to the TI by granting substantial subsidies to boost production, encouraging more leaf companies to purchase the crop, and recognizing the industry for its contributions to the national economy, including being among the top taxpayers.

### 4. Unnecessary Interaction

Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC states that interaction between government officials and the TI should be limited to only when strictly necessary. However, this is not the case in practice. The Japanese Embassy coordinated and facilitated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Tanzania and Japan Tobacco (JT), witnessed by the Prime Minister of Tanzania.

### 5. Transparency

The government has not put in place a procedure to disclose its meetings with the TI. While individual meetings occur, there is no public disclosure mechanism. Furthermore, neither the Tanzania Medicines and Drugs Authority Regulations or the Tobacco Industry Act require tobacco companies to register their affiliated organizations or individuals acting on their behalf, such as lobbyists.

### 6. Conflict of Interest

A retired Chief Justice has been appointed as the new Board Chairperson of the Tanzania Cigarette Public Limited Company, while another board member, a former government employee and government nominee, represents minority shareholders.



## 7. Preventive Measures

The government does not have a program or plan to consistently raise awareness within its departments on policies relating to Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC. It

has not formulated, adopted, or implemented a code of conduct for public officials prescribing standards for their dealings with the TI. Public officials continue to meet with TI representatives without any procedure in place.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Establish measures to limit interaction with the TI to only when strictly necessary, and ensure transparency of those interactions.
2. Reject partnerships or non-binding agreements with the TI.
3. Prevent conflicts of interest among government officials and employees.
4. Propose in Parliament a tobacco control bill that fully complies with the WHO FCTC, to protect the public, especially children and youth, from the harms of tobacco use.
5. Ban shisha and other new tobacco products to protect children and youth.
6. Ban all CSR activities by the TI, as stated in the WHO FCTC, and develop a procedure for government officials to record all interactions with the industry.
7. Stop all tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship in line with Article 13 of the WHO FCTC, to protect youth from being lured into smoking.
8. Develop a code of conduct for government officials to provide guidance on interacting with the TI, limited to only when strictly necessary.