2021 U.S. Tobacco Industry Interference Index Launch
Speakers

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Moderator

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ASH Executive Director
“In setting and implementing their public health policies with respect to tobacco control, Parties shall act to protect these policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry in accordance with national law.”

• Article 5.3 Guidelines adopted in 2008
TI remains a problem and has stepped up its interference

2019 - 33 countries

2020 - 57 countries

2021 – 80 countries

Africa

Europe

Latin America
2021: No country has been spared from interference.
Civil Society report on governments’ response to interference:

Governance
- The industry’s participation in policy development
- Unnecessary government-industry interaction
- Conflicts of interest
- Measures that prevent industry influence

Regulation
- Tobacco-related CSR activities
- Benefits given to the tobacco industry
- Transparency
While TI interfered with policy in many governments, a few made progress protecting their policies.

- **Botswana** published tobacco control law limiting interaction with TI, prohibits partnerships and giving incentives.

- **Indian** Health Ministry adopted a code of conduct restricting the collaboration of officials with tobacco industries.

- **Cambodia** Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports banned all forms of partnership with the TI among educational facilities.

Legislation delayed in Guatemala, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia.
CSR: Tobacco industry stepped up its charities to health sector & law enforcement agencies during COVID-19 pandemic.

- Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, New Zealand, Netherlands and Norway reported not receiving tobacco-related CSR donations.
- Myanmar and Philippines have restrictions on CSR activities but accepted charity from the industry during the pandemic.

At least 11 countries, including Czech Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Paraguay, Turkey, that received donations also compromised on taxing tobacco products.
Several governments deemed TI and cigarettes “essential” during pandemic

- Bangladesh, Jordan, Sudan, Malaysia, and Kenya deemed cigarettes as “essential” items to be sold during lockdowns.
- South Africa banned cigarette sales during the lockdown—sued by the industry.

Photo: WHO facebook
Non-Parties face high levels of interference

- Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Switzerland and U.S.A. have remained non-Parties to the WHO FCTC, faced high levels of TI interference that has undermined tobacco control.

- These governments encouraged tobacco businesses by providing incentives, sustaining industry-friendly legislation and promoting the TI internationally.
Governments forged agreements instead of regulations

The TI in Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Italy and the Netherlands secured collaboration with governments to do training programs and enforcement activities, especially on illicit trade;

- This contrasts with Article 5.3 which requires to limit interactions with the TI to only when strictly necessary for regulation.
Most improved and deteriorated countries

Score has improved

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Score has deteriorated

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<td>U.S.A.</td>
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#GlobalTobaccoIndex 2021

The lower the score, the better the ranking
How can governments protect themselves?

FCTC Guidelines for Implementation of Article 5.3

- Be transparent when interacting with the tobacco industry,
- Firewall government officials through rules of engagement with the industry or a code of conduct;
- Require information on production, marketing and revenue from tobacco industry;
- Increase awareness across government depts about tobacco industry tactics.
Global Tobacco Industry Interference Index 2021

The tobacco industry is trying to block life-saving policies in the

For more information: www.exposetobacco.org

www.globaltobaccoindex.org
It’s Time to Shine the Light on the Tobacco Industry

STOP is a partnership between the Tobacco Control Research Group at the University of Bath, the Global Center for Good Governance in Tobacco Control, The Union’s Department of Tobacco Control, and Vital Strategies with funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies.
2021 U.S. TOBACCO INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE INDEX

Nichelle Gray
Regardless of these limitations there is much that can and should be done to expose and neutralize tobacco industry interference.
U.S. Total Score

76
Out of 100
How the U.S. Compares

U.S. Global Rank 68/80
U.S. INDEX INDICATORS & KEY FINDINGS

Indicator 1: Level of Industry Participation in Policy-Development

Indicator 2: Industry CSR Activities
Altria committed $1 million in COVID relief in Richmond Virginia and in regions where they manufacture of their products occurs.
Indicator 3: Benefits to the Tobacco Industry

Indicator 4: Forms of Unnecessary Interaction

Indicator 5: Transparency
Indicator 6: Conflict of Interest

Indicator 7: Preventative Measures
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Mandate
  - Adopt a Code of Conduct
- Strengthen
  - Prevent Conflicts of Interest
- Raise Awareness
  - Close Loopholes
- Educate
  - Mandate
  - Adopt a Code of Conduct
TAKE ACTION!

Read the report and share your stories

Submit your information to:

info@ash.org

Or email

Grayn@ash.org
Have you seen tobacco industry interference in public health policymaking? Email us the details at info@ash.org!

Next Webinars:
November 22nd – Interference of the Tobacco Industry: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

Registration links will be emailed soon.

Toolkit for Advocates
Talking with government and media about the COVID-19 and tobacco use co-morbidity and policies to protect the health of everyone during the pandemic.

ash.org/covid19