

Reports of NGO observers to COP 2018

Section: Contact Details

- * Name of organization
- * Interamerican Heart Foundation
- * Mailing Address
- * 7272 Greenville Ave., Dallas, Texas USA
- * Contact person responsible for the report
- * Beatriz Champagne, PhD
- * Telephone
- * +1 972 832 2934
- * Email:
- * beatriz.champagne@iahf.org
- * Website of Organization
- * <http://www.interamericanheart.org>
- * Email:
- * javier.valenzuela@interamericanheart.org

Section: General Information

- * Please indicate if your organization would like to retain it's status as observer to the Conference of the Parties
- * Yes
- * Does your organizations mission statement specifically refer to tobacco control?
- * No
- * If yes, please specify:
- *
- * Does your organization have regional branches to enhance activities in different regions or groups of countries?
- * Yes
- * If yes, please provide details:
- * the IAHF has a main office within the offices of the American Heart Association, which provides office space for us. We have affiliated organizations in Buenos Aires, Argentina (FIC Argentina); La Paz, Bolivia (FIC Bolivia); and Mexico City, Mexico (FIC Mexico). FIC means Fundaci?n Interamericana del Coraz?n, the Spanish name for our organization. We also have a branch in Kingston, Jamaica, for the English-Speaking Caribbean.

* Does your organization regularly convene meetings or conferences for its membership?

* Yes

* If yes, is tobacco control covered in these meetings?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* As tobacco has been our top priority for many years, our meeting almost always discuss tobacco control in our region and individual countries.

We have organized 5 Latin American and Caribbean Tobacco or Health Conferences for our region, the latest in Montevideo, Uruguay in June 2017. Our organization is frequently a participant in workshops by PAHO and Campaign for Tobacco Free kids. We have grants that involve tobacco control and we have meetings related to those projects.

Section: Participation in WHO FCTC meetings and contributions to other tobacco control related events

* Please indicate the meetings organized by the Convention Secretariat at which your organization was represented (sessions of the Conference of the Parties, meetings of intersessional groups, NGO meetings, etc.):

* Our regional office was not able to participate at the last COP due to lack of funding. But our affiliated organizations FIC Mexico and FIC Argentina were engaged. Also our economist consultant, who is also a member of the Board of the FCA, attended and supported civil society positions.

IAHF is also in official relations with PAHO and we attend the annual Directing Council meetings where we always have interventions in the name of civil society on tobacco issues.

* Please list any other meetings or conferences with a focus on tobacco control attended by your organization:

* Many members of our organization attended the World Conference Tobacco or Health in Cape Town recently. Our own regional conference the 5th Latin American and Caribbean Tobacco or Health Conference in Montevideo, Uruguay, June 2017 convened about 400 participants from 25 countries. Key partners were CTFK, PAHO, IDRC, ACS, AHA, JHSPH, SRNT, among others. 5 plenaries, 21 concurrent sessions, 7 workshops, approximately 140 speakers and chairs, posters, awards, exhibitors, media impact. Declaration on Banning Flavored Tobacco products.

Section: Your organization's activities to support implementation of the WHO FCTC:

* Article 5 (General obligations)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* IAHF moderates the CLACCTA list-serv which includes tobacco advocates. Art. 5.3 on interference of the industry is a main topic of discussion. Art 5.3 is frequently noted when we or partners organize letter campaigns.

IAHF participated in a meeting that took place in Panama on this subject.

FIC Argentina, one of our affiliated organizations, organized a major region wide campaign Alto a las Tabacaleras or Stop the Tobacco Industry. Regional monitoring and responding to tobacco industry strategies. Monitoring of tobacco industry strategies at the point of sale.

* Article 6 (Price and tax measures to reduce demand for tobacco)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* IAHF with FIC Argentina co-organized an NIH Fogarty funded research program "From Production to Retailing, policy-oriented research on tobacco economy in Argentina." This project was the basis for the successful effort to raise tobacco taxes in 2017. FIC Argentina, together with the Argentina Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance received a Bloomberg Award for this accomplishment at the Cape Town conference March 2018.

* Article 8 (Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* FIC Argentina, the O'Neill Institute and ASH obtained an audience with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to encourage treating tobacco as an affront to human rights. The key message was related to children's exposure to tobacco smoke and industry disregard for basic human right to health.

The proposed comprehensive tobacco control legislation that FIC Bolivia has been shepherding for now almost 2 years, includes Art 8 clause, as well as

* Article 9 (Regulation of the contents of tobacco product) and/or Article 10 (Regulation of tobacco product disclosures)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* Supported banning of menthol and other flavorings in Chile and Brazil.

* Article 11 (Packaging and labelling of tobacco products)?

* No

* If yes, please provide details:

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* Article 12 (Education, communication, training and public awareness)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* FIC Argentina, FIC Mexico and FIC Bolivia have robust communication functions to reach the public via media and social networks. They regularly organize media campaigns, legislative forums, coalition building training, among other means of educating and communicating about tobacco control.

* Article 13 (Tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* Art 13 is part of the proposed comprehensive legislation FIC Bolivia is fighting for in the Bolivian Assembly. IAHF and CTFK provide weekly consultation.

* Article 14 (Demand reduction measures concerning tobacco dependence and cessation)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* Supported implementation of FCTC Article 14 in Bolivia, Mexico and Costa Rica working with Ministries of Health to develop National Strategies on Cessation. National Situation Analyses conducted in Bolivia and Mexico. Full plan approved in Uruguay.

Organized capacity building program for healthcare professionals for our region in brief advice and train the trainer to increase number of instructors that could provide training. Used models developed by WHO.

* Article 15 (Illicit trade in tobacco products)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* Project: Illicit trade in Mercosur. FIC Argentina and IAHF were awarded a grant by American Cancer Society to study illicit trade in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, as well as to delve more deeply into illicit trade in Argentina using various methodologies for estimating illicit trade. Project is still underway.

* Article 16 (Sales to and by minors)?

* No

* If yes, please provide details:

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* Article 17 (Provision of support for economically viable alternative activities) and/or Article 18 (Protection of the environment and the health of persons)?

* No

* If yes, please provide details:

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* Article 19 (Liability)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* FIC Argentina and FIC Mexico have legal counsel that has worked with CTFK in this area.

* Article 20 (Research, surveillance and exchange of information)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* IAHF is in the process of developing Scorecard for 12 countries in the region which includes tobacco policies and other key data.

* Article 22 (Cooperation in the scientific, technical and legal fields and provision of related expertise)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* IAHF runs webinars in different topics which include providing technical expertise to others in the region. For example, we run one on illicit trade which highlighted some differences of opinion within tobacco control advocates.

Section: Other relevant activities to support the work of the WHO FCTC

* Please provide any other relevant information:

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* Please attach any other relevant file(s)

* 170801 5th LACTOH report preliminary draft 2.doc

Section: Declarations

* Please confirm that your organization does not receive, has not received and will not receive in the future, either directly or indirectly, any financial or other contributions or assistance from the tobacco industry or its affiliates. Please also confirm that neither your members nor your partners are affiliated directly or indirectly with the tobacco industry or its affiliates or those furthering the interests of the tobacco industry.

* Yes

* By electronic signature I confirm that the above information is accurate and completed to the best of our abilities.

* Beatriz Champagne, for Eugenia Ramos, Executive Director, March 18 2018

* Please confirm that the activities of your organization are in conformity with the 17th and 18th preambular paragraphs and Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC.

* Yes
