

Reports of NGO observers to COP 2016

Contact Details

- 1) Name of organization
The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease
(The Union), Department of Tobacco Control
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General Information

- 1) Please indicate if your organization would like to retain it's status as observer to the Conference of the Parties
Yes
- 2) Does your organizations mission statement specifically refer to tobacco control?
No

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3) If yes, please specify:

The Union's mission statement does not specifically refer to tobacco control, however The Union's mission is to improve lung health and the official goal of The Union's Department of

Tobacco Control is stated as follows: "To advance the world Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control [WHO FCTC] - an international health treaty that provides a coordinated strategy to reduce tobacco use."

4) Does your organization have regional branches to enhance activities in different regions or groups of countries?

Yes

5) If yes, please provide details:

The Union's tobacco control headquarters is in Edinburgh, UK, and tobacco control regional/country hubs are based in India, Singapore, Mexico and China.

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

Yes

7) If yes, is tobacco control covered in these meetings?

Yes

8) If yes, please provide details:

The Union's tobacco control members currently run three expert working groups [see below], each focusing on complex or emerging issues in tobacco control. Members of the tobacco control section join these groups in order to become part of an ongoing conversation with colleagues and peers across the globe who are tackling similar challenges.

The working groups are:

- Countering tobacco industry interference in public health policies
- Getting research into tobacco control policy at country and regional levels
- TB, HIV and tobacco

Tobacco control working groups convened at the 46th Union World Conference on Lung Health (WLC 2015) in Cape Town, which took place 2-6 December 2015.

Wider tobacco control meetings have also been held since October 2014 with grantees and in-country/regional tobacco control staff; and at key events such as the 16th World Conference on Tobacco Or Health (WCTOH 2015) in Abu Dhabi, which took place 17-21 March 2015.

The Union's Department of Tobacco Control also hosted a strategy group meeting of tobacco control leads at the Edinburgh office in May 2015.

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

1) 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.):

Title and date

WHO FCTC Conference of the Parties (COP) 6, 13-18 October 2014;

First meeting of the report group to review reporting arrangements under the WHO FCTC, December 2015

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

Title and date

16th World Conference on Tobacco Or Health (WCTOH 2015), Abu Dhabi (The Union serves as Permanent Secretariat for WCTOH);

46th Union World Conference on Lung Health (WLC 2015);
National Policy Strategic Meeting on FCTC, Indonesia;

Tobacco Control Strategy Meetings in China, Philippines, Vietnam, Brazil, Argentina and Mexico.

Wider tobacco control meetings have also been held since October 2014 with tobacco control partners and The Union in-country/regional tobacco control staff.

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

Has your organization conducted any work/activity in relation to the following provisions of the WHO FCTC?

1) Article 5 (General obligations)?

Yes

2) If yes, please provide details:

- Since October 2014, The Union has provided technical assistance to Ministries of Health and wider government administrations as well as civil society organisations on the development of Article 5.3 protocols.
- Technical training has been provided by The Union on countering tobacco interference. Since October 2014, The Union

delivered seven courses on Article 5.3 in Russia (three courses), Indonesia, Chile, India and Colombia.

- The Union also produced the following peer reviewed journal publication in 2015 relating to Article 5.3: Controle do tabaco no Uruguai: o caso Philip Morris vs. Uruguai (translation from Portuguese: Tobacco control in Uruguay: the case of Philip Morris vs. Uruguay).
- Related symposia/presentations were delivered at WCTOH 2015.

- At the WLC 2015, a meeting was held by The Union for the working group: 'Countering tobacco industry interference in public health'.

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

4) If yes, please provide details:

- Since October 2014, The Union has provided technical assistance to Ministries of Health and Ministries of Finance on Article 6.
- The Union has developed a course on sustainable funding for tobacco control that was piloted in Bangladesh recently and will soon be made available to other countries.
- The Union also produced the following peer reviewed journal publication in 2015 relating to Article 6: 'The Single Cigarette Economy in India - a Back of the Envelope Survey to Estimate its Magnitude'.
- Related symposia/presentations were delivered at WCTOH 2015.

• At the WLC 2015, The Union delivered multiple sessions related to pricing and tax measures to reduce demand for tobacco. These included a high level plenary session called 'Taxing health-harming products and creating health promotion funds - a win-win health strategy for governments'; a side meeting on 'Regional progress and opportunities in tobacco taxation'; and a symposium called 'why and how to use tobacco taxes as funding mechanisms for financing health in low-income countries'.

5) Article 8 (Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke)?
Yes

6) If yes, please provide details:

- Since October 2014, The Union has provided technical assistance to Ministries of Health and wider government administrations on Article 8.
- Technical training has also been provided by The Union on Article 8. Since October 2014, The Union has delivered four training courses on smokefree implementation and enforcement in Russia (two courses), India and Mexico.
- The Union produced the following peer reviewed journal publications in 2015 relating to Article 8: 'Smoking cessation and smokefree environments for tuberculosis patients in Indonesia- a cohort study'; and 'Low-cost air quality monitoring methods to assess compliance with smoke-free regulations: a multi-centre study in six low and middle income countries'.
- Related symposia/presentations were also delivered at WCTOH 2015.

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

8) If yes, please provide details:

- Since October 2014, Technical assistance has been provided to governments on Article 9 through The Union's partnership working with organisations in China (eg "slimming" cigarettes)

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and South Africa (eg Reduced Ignition Propensity [RIP] cigarettes).

9) Article 11 (Packaging and labelling of tobacco products)?
Yes

10) If yes, please provide details:

- Since October 2014, The Union has provided technical assistance to Ministries of Health and wider government administrations on the Article 11.
- In November 2014, The Union delivered a technical training course on Graphic Health Warnings in Indonesia.
- Related symposia/presentations were also delivered at WCTOH 2015.

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

12) If yes, please provide details:

- The Union has continued to deliver its quality technical training designed to strengthen capacity for effective tobacco control programmes in countries with the highest burden of tobacco use. The courses are based on FCTC's available guidelines, the MPOWER tobacco control strategy and global best practices. Since October 2014, 16 Technical trainings were delivered by The Union, with a total of 567 places filled.
- The Union has partnered with the University of Stirling in developing a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) course on International Tobacco Control in Practice. This is a 20 credit course at the Masters' level that will be delivered online and face-to-face by the middle of 2016.
- Training packages have been translated into online courses to be readily accessible to the public.
- The Union has also continued to produce press releases and briefings, factsheets, web content, a regular e-newsletter and other resources and communications to enhance public understanding of tobacco control.

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

14) If yes, please provide details:

- Since October 2014, The Union has provided technical assistance to Ministries of Health and wider government administrations as well as civil society organisations on Article 13.
- The Union has also provided technical training on Article 13. Since October 2014, The Union has delivered three courses on Tobacco Advertisement, Promotion and Sponsorship (TAPS) in Bangladesh, India and China.
- Related symposia/presentations were delivered at WCTOH 2015.

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

Yes

16) If yes, please provide details:

- Since October 2014, The Union has provided some technical assistance to governments on Article 14.
- The Union also produced the following peer reviewed journal publications in 2015: 'Smoking cessation and smokefree environments for tuberculosis patients in Indonesia-a cohort study'; 'Clearing the smoke around the TB-HIV syndemic: Smoking as a critical issue for TB and HIV treatment and care'; and 'A smoking cessation intervention among tuberculosis patients in rural China'.

17) Article 15 (Illicit trade in tobacco products)?

Yes

18) If yes, please provide details:

- Since October 2014, The Union has provided some technical assistance to Ministries of Health and Ministries of Finance on Article 15, for example, In Vietnam.
- At WLC 2015, an oral abstract session was delivered on 'Tobacco: economics and illicit trade'.

19) Article 16 (Sales to and by minors)?

Yes

20) If yes, please provide details:

- Since October 2014, The Union has provided some technical assistance to governments on Article 16.
- The Union's training on MPOWER also includes content on Article 16. Since October 2014, The Union's MPOWER course has been delivered in Bangladesh (twice), India, China and Pakistan.

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

Yes

22) If yes, please provide details:

- Since October 2014, The Union has provided some technical assistance to Ministries of Health and key organisations working to support governments in Article 17.
- The following is an example of a policy paper, produced by a Union grantee with technical support from The Union, which was used for national advocacy for Article 17 in Indonesia: 'Indonesian tobacco farmers support government for tobacco control: assessing opinion of current and ex-tobacco farmers on tobacco farming and tobacco control in Indonesia'. The report was disseminated to media and policy makers in Jakarta in October 2015.

23) Article 19 (Liability)?

No

24) If yes, please provide details:

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

Yes

26) If yes, please provide details:

- The Union has delivered research projects in key countries and produced numerous publications in peer reviewed journals, including 16 since October 2014.
- The Union provided technical assistance to establish a tobacco industry surveillance centre in Brazil and has collaborated with global research initiatives such as the International Consortium for Action and Research on Tobacco (ICART).
- At the WLC 2015, a meeting was held for the working group: 'Getting research into tobacco control policy at regional and country level.'

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

Yes

28) If yes, please provide details:

- Since October 2014, The Union has continued to cooperate with organisations in various FCTC Party countries and with international organisations working in the field of tobacco control (for example, WHO, CDC, WLF).
- Union representatives attended the first meeting of the report group to review reporting arrangements under the WHO FCTC in December 2015.
- The Union is Permanent Secretariat for the world Conference on Tobacco Or Health (WCTOH), the world's largest conference for tobacco control advocates, policy-makers, researchers, public health and clinical experts.
- At the WLC 2015, a side meeting was held called 'Multisectoral action for global tobacco control: a collaborative response for lung health and NCDs'.

Other relevant activities to support the work of the WHO FCTC

1) Please provide any other relevant information:

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2) Please attach any other relevant file(s)

Declarations

1) 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

2) By electronic signature I confirm that the above information is accurate and completed to the best of our abilities.
Signature by head of organization and date
Dr Ehsan Latif, 20-01-2016

3) 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