

Reaccreditation report of NGO observers to MOP4

Survey response 1

Date submitted
2025-02-28 19:55:40

A. Contact details

A1. Name of organization
African Tobacco Control Alliance (ATCA)
A6. Website of organization
https://atca-africa.org

B. General information

B1. Please indicate if your organization would like to retain its status as observer to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products
Yes
B2. Does your organization's mission statement specifically refer to tobacco control or to countering/fighting illicit trade in tobacco products?
Yes
B3. If yes, please specify:
African Tobacco Control Alliance promotes the development and implementation of international, regional and national legal instruments, policies and activities on tobacco control within the African region. Our mission also includes monitoring the tobacco industry and mobilizing our members and partners to denounce and discredit interference initiatives, as well as to fight against illicit trade.
B4. Does your organization have regional branch(es) to enhance activities in different regions or groups of countries?
Yes
B5. If yes, please provide details
ATCA is a non-profit, apolitical, pan-African network of 120 civil society organizations in 39 countries. ATCA works with its country partners to support African governments to develop tobacco control legislation and policies in conformity with the WHO FCTC and its guidelines. It is also engaged in monitoring, exposing and denouncing the tobacco industries and its allies by working in close collaboration with regional and international partners.
B6. Does your organization regularly convene meetings or conferences for its membership?
Yes
B7. If yes, please indicate frequency:
Biennially
B9. If yes, is tobacco control or countering/fighting illicit trade in tobacco products covered in the meetings/conferences?
Yes

C. Participation in meetings organized under the auspices of the Protocol and contributions

C1. Please indicate the meetings organized by the Convention Secretariat at which your organization was represented (sessions of the Meeting of Parties, meetings of inter-sessional groups, working groups, NGO events, etc.)

ATCA participated the following meetings:

- WHO AFRO Pre COP 10, in Entebbe, from 26 to 27 October 2023
- WHO AFRO regional Committee Meeting (AFR_RC74) in Brazzaville, Congo from 26 to 30 August 2024
- COP 10 in Panama, from 5 to 10 February 2024
- MOP 3 in Panama, from 12 to 15 February 2024

C2. Please list any other meetings or conferences with a focus on tobacco control or countering/fighting illicit trade in tobacco products attended by your organization.

Other meetings in which ACTA participated:

- Third session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-3) in Nairobi, Kenya, from 13 to 19 November 2023
- Forth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-4) in Ottawa, from 21 to 30 April 2024
- Training symposium for French-speaking African lawyers on tobacco control in Saly, Senegal, from 20 to 23 May 2024 (Co-facilitated)
- Africa Summit on enhancing tobacco taxation measures: a win - win - win for all, in Nairobi, Kenya from 7 to 9 October 2024
- Africa Conference on tobacco control and development, in Accra, Ghana, from 11 to 14 November 2024
- The 5th Istanbul Initiative Summit, related to drug production, addiction recovery, public health, and environmental sustainability by Turkish Green Crescent Society held online on October 8-9, 2024

D. Work encouraging Parties to the WHO FCTC to become Party to the Protocol

D1. Have you supported any Party or Parties to the WHO FCTC to become Party to the Protocol?

Yes

D2. If yes, please indicate which one(s):

Cameroon adopted a law in July 2020 authorizing the President to ratify the Protocol on the Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, followed by a decree on July 27, 2020. However, the Protocol still remained to be ratified by Cameroon. In 2023, with the financial assistance of Vital Strategies, ATCA provided technical assistance to its country partner in Cameroon to develop and disseminate the Tobacco Industry Interference Index report. It also produced communication materials used in a series of advocacy activities aimed at political decision-makers with a view to finalizing the ratification of the Protocol. We understand that the ratification documents will soon be dispatched to the United Nations. Follow-up is in progress.

E. Your organization's activities to support the Parties in their implementation of the Protocol

E. Has your organization conducted any work/activity in relation to the following provisions of the Protocol?

E1. Part II: General obligations

E1.a. Article 4: General obligations:

No

E1.b. Article 5: Protection of personal data:

No

E2 Part III: Supply chain control

E2.a. Article 6 (Licence, equivalent approval or control system):

No

E2.b. Article 7 (Due diligence):
No
E2.c. Article 8 (Tracking and tracing):
No
E2.d. Article 9 (Record keeping):
No
E2.e. Article 10 (Security and preventive measures):
No
E2.f. Article 11 (Sale by Internet, telecommunication, or any other evolving technology):
No
E2.g. Article 12 (Free zones and international transit):
No
E2.h. Article 13 (Duty free sales):
No
E3 Part IV: Offences
E3.a. Article 14 (Unlawful conduct including criminal offences):
Yes
E3.b. Article 15 (Liability of legal persons):
No
E3.c. Article 16 (Prosecution and sanctions):
No
E3.d. Article 17 (Seizure payments):
No
E3.e. Article 18 (Disposal or destruction):
No
E3.f. Article 19 (Special investigative techniques):
No
E3.g. If you responded YES to any of above, please provide details:
E4. Part V: International cooperation
E4.a. Article 20 (General information sharing):
No
E4.b. Article 21 (Enforcement information sharing):
No
E4.c. Article 21 (Information sharing: confidentiality and protection of information):
No
E4.d. Article 22 (Assistance and cooperation: training, technical assistance and cooperation in scientific, technical and technological matters):
No
E4.e. Article 24 (Assistance and cooperation: investigation and prosecution of offences):
No

E4.f. Article 27 (Law enforcement cooperation):
No
E4.g. Article 28 (Mutual administrative assistance):
No
E4.h. Article 29 (Mutual legal assistance):
No
E4.i. Article 30 (Extradition) and Article 31 (Measures to ensure extradition):
No
E5. Part VI: Reporting
E5.a. Article 32 (Reporting and exchange of information):
No
E6. Part VII: Institutional arrangements and financial resources
E6.a. Article 36 (Financial resources):
No

F. Other relevant activities to support the work of the Protocol

F1. Please provide any other relevant information that does not fit under the questions above.
Article 23: As a Pan-African network of civil society organizations with more than 120 organizational members across 39 African countries, ATCA has the biggest civil society network for the monitoring of the tobacco industry in Africa. It has established Tobacco Industry Monitoring and Response (TIMR) Teams in several countries to serve as watchdog to the tobacco industry, denouncing and exposing its numerous activities contrary to existing legislations and policies. ATCA also partners with the Global Centre for Good Governance to prepare the Tobacco Industry Monitoring Index, the last edition of which saw the participation of 18 African countries. These projects require that ATCA organizes regular trainings for its TIMR teams as well as for government officials and the media. The illicit trade in tobacco products, in which the tobacco industry is well known to be deeply engaged, has a prominent place in ATCA's training programmes. Our country partners, and especially the media, are empowered to keep the illicit trade in tobacco products high on their advocacy agenda with decision-makers.

G. Attachments

G1. Please attach any file relevant to any of the activities reported above.
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H. Declarations

H1. 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 assistances 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, I confirm

H2. Please confirm that the activity of your organization is in conformity with the Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC and the 15th and 16th preambular paragraphs of the Protocol.

Yes, I confirm

H3. Through my electronic signature, I confirm that the above information is accurate and complete, to the best of our knowledge and abilities:

KODJO EPSE KOUAMI KOSSIWA