

Reaccreditation report of NGO observers to COP11

Survey response 1

Date submitted
2025-02-28 21:06:01

A. Contact details

A1. Name of organization
InterAmerican Heart Foundation
A6. Website of organization
https://interamericanheart.org

B. General information

B1. Please indicate if your organization would like to retain its status as observer to the Conference of the Parties
Yes
B2. Does your organization's mission statement specifically refer to tobacco control?
Yes
B3. If yes, please specify:
The IAHF mission is to control cardiovascular diseases (CVD) and related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and their main risk factors TOBACCO, unhealthy nutrition, alcohol, physical inactivity and air pollution in the Americas.
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
IAHF is itself a regional continental organization in the Americas, whose work is focused on Latin America and the Caribbean. It has members across the Americas, but also has affiliated organizations in Argentina (Fundación InterAmericana del Corazón Argentina) and in Jamaica (InterAmerican Heart Foundation Caribbean).
B6. Does your organization regularly convene meetings or conferences for its membership?
Yes
B7. If yes, is tobacco control covered in these meetings?
Yes
B8. If yes, please provide details
At least once a year IAHF holds its General Assembly meeting for all Board of Directors members, committee members, foundation members and guests. During these meetings the IAHF discusses its activities since the previous General Assembly meeting, many of which deal with tobacco control, including tobacco control projects (i.e. most recently those in Bolivia and Peru, World No Tobacco Day activities, other advocacy and dissemination activities, etc.) IAHF has also organized the Latin America and the Caribbean Tobacco or Health (LACTOH) conference in the past and the prestigious Science of Peace Award lecture where awardees have been staunch advocates for tobacco control from different walks of life (physicians and scientists, but also Presidents and senators)

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

<p>C1. 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.)</p> <p>COP3 – Nov 2008 – Durban, South Africa COP4 – Nov 2010 – Punta del Este, Uruguay COP7 – Nov 2016 – New Delhi, India PreCOP8 – Aug 2018 – Washington, DC COP8 – Oct 2018 – Geneva Switzerland PreCOP9 – Oct 2021 – Virtual COP9 – Nov 2021 – Virtual PreCOP10 – Oct 2023 – Brasilia, Brazil COP10 – Feb 2024 – Panama City, Panama NGO meeting for all observers convened December 2024 - Virtual</p>
<p>C2. Please list any other meetings or conferences with a focus on tobacco control attended by your organization</p> <p>Some other recent tobacco control meetings organized and attended by members of the IAHF include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IAHF, ACT Brazil and other partners co-sponsored a cocktail side-event to government and civil society representatives about tobacco industry interference during the AMRO pre-COP event held in Brasilia, Brazil on 17 – 20 October 2023. • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Virtual training series co-organized by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and Bloomberg Philanthropies: "Accelerating implementation of MPOWER in the Americas" (June - July and another series in August- September of 2021) • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAHO-UK government training on implementation of Article 5 sections 1, 2 and 3 in the Americas (March 2021). • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Latin America and the Caribbean Tobacco Control Leadership Program to be held in Lima, Peru from March 24-29, 2019, organized by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH) and the "Comisión Nacional Permanente de Lucha Antitabáquica" (COLAT). • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional Strategies to Counteract the Tobacco Industry, August 14, 2019, Piriápolis, Uruguay. Organized by the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK), JHSPH, and others; and the Uruguayan-Argentinian Congress on Tobacco or Health, August 14-16, 2019. • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Past World No Tobacco or Health conferences. <p>Some recent meetings whose main objective was not tobacco control but where IAHF presented about progress of FCTC implementation and challenges in the region and about its own work, or else advocated for tobacco control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observer to the UNEP first Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee towards a binding treaty to eliminate plastic pollution including in the marine environment, where IAHF also became part of the Stop tobacco pollution alliance (STPA) together with other tobacco civil society organizations (CSOs) advocate for the elimination of cigarette filters • <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Heart Association Scientific Meetings (yearly in November 2019 - 2024) and also the InterAmerican Society of Cardiology (SIAC) cardiology congresses (yearly in June, since 2021) where IAHF discussed tobacco control, regional progress to the FCTC and ITP and also specific national and regional tobacco control projects.

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

<p>D1. Article 5 (General obligations)?</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>D2. If yes, please provide details</p> <p>IAHF and affiliates constantly promote general obligations under Art. 5, particularly monitoring progress on the protection from the tobacco industry interference; and members participate in webinars and meetings discussing and advocating for this article, in letter writing and other campaigns, and disseminating information on the challenges and progress in the region.</p>
<p>D3. Article 6 (Price and tax measures to reduce demand for tobacco)?</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>D4. If yes, please provide details</p> <p>IAHF's most recent contribution in this area is a project initiated in December of 2024, to reduce tobacco consumption in Peru (an FCTC Party since 2004): tobacco fiscal policy and control of illicit trade of tobacco products. The project is carried out in collaboration with civil society organization CEDRO (Center for Information and Education for the Prevention of Drug Abuse), and includes strategies and actions aligned with article 6 of the FCTC, to contribute to strengthening a sustainable fiscal policy focused mainly on reducing the affordability of all products of tobacco (including traditional and new and emerging products) and seeking to have an impact on initiation and consumption.</p> <p>In the past, among other efforts, IAHF also supported policies to raise taxes and demand studies in several Parties and Non-Parties in the region (i.e. Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay), and also supported advocacy and information campaigns to defend such initiatives when they were challenged.</p>
<p>D5. Article 8 (Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke)?</p> <p>Yes</p>

D6. If yes, please provide details
IAHF advocated for 100% smoke-free environments (SFEs) policies in the region and supported implementation for many years, starting in Mexico City decades ago. Recently, the organization supported implementation of SFEs in Bolivia, in collaborative efforts with CSO Healthy Bolivia Foundation ("Fundación Bolivia Saludable", FBS), initially supporting this member State and its civil society towards the goal of achieving the approval of an FCTC-aligned tobacco control law, which, among other measures, regulated SFEs (including both traditional tobacco products and also new and emerging products of tobacco and nicotine) in public enclosed spaces and also in some open public spaces such as parks, and lakes. The law was approved (Law 1280 / February 2020) and in 2023, also supported by CSOs efforts, Supreme Decree 4972 of June 2023 was issued, implementing SFEs and sanctions for infractions.
D7. Article 9 (Regulation of the contents of tobacco product) and/or Article 10 (Regulation of tobacco product disclosures)?
No
D9. Article 11 (Packaging and labelling of tobacco products)?
Yes
D10. If yes, please provide details
IAHF supported passage of the General Tobacco Control Law 1280 in Bolivia, which includes warnings in 60% of packages. Many years before, IAHF contributed to developing a database of images used for graphic warnings by Mercosur countries. IAHF also routinely supported Parties' initiatives and their CSOs campaigns to promote pictorial warnings and particularly for developing plain packaging policies (or to defend maintaining those policies in some cases).
D11. Article 12 (Education, communication, training and public awareness)?
Yes
D12. If yes, please provide details
Develops and supports communication campaigns for regional acceleration of implementation of the FCTC by Parties. This is a yearly effort that includes efforts in key communications milestones such as World No Tobacco Day (WNTD), World Heart Day, and others; and uses several channels of communications to increase public awareness. IAHF continues to develop an e-newsletter which includes information on main risk factors for CVDs and NCDs and which highlights news and article analysis informing of AMRO Parties' progress and challenges implementing the FCTC, about the increasing threat of the new and emerging products of tobacco and nicotine and about other topics. As examples of education efforts directed to specific target audiences, IAHF also co-participated in years past in the development of training sessions to develop national strategies for tobacco cessation for Ministry of Health members and also developed and administered training courses for healthcare providers to deliver effective brief advice for cessation.
D13. Article 13 (Tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship)?
Yes
D14. If yes, please provide details
The most recent work on Article 13 are the evidence to policy projects carried out in Bolivia, where IAHF and Healthy Bolivia Foundation ("Fundación Bolivia Saludable", FBS) collaborated to produce evidence and advocate for this Party to implement tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship (TAPS) bans. The projects involved studying and exposing tobacco industry promotion and marketing campaigns targeting children and youths: both online where the tobacco industry recruited and used young tobacco influencers to promote its products, and strategies used in retail stores and others in the immediate physical surroundings of schools in La Paz, Bolivia. IAHF and FBS presented the results to decision makers and to the public, including with the media, activities in universities, schools, fairs and with webinars, factsheets, social media postings and short videos explaining the projects' findings and the importance to fully implement Article 13. IAHF and others also collaborated with Bolivia to achieve approval of its current general tobacco control law (Law 1280 of February 2020) which includes TAPS bans (except at point of sale). These groups also advocated for a regulatory Decree to achieve full implementation of the Law. In 2023 the Ministry of Health and Sports issued a Supreme Decree (Supreme Decree 4972 / June 2023) regulating SFEs, creating a multidisciplinary commission to further implement tobacco control policy, and also producing an initial TAPS regulation. In Brazil, another FCTC Party, IAHF collaborated with ACT Health Promotion and the National Cancer Institute (INCA) to help monitor and report violations to Brazilian federal laws banning TAPS in major cultural events Rock in Rio and Lollapalooza. These monitoring activities produced material that was later used in detailed complaints which resulted in legal actions and fines imposed on violators (2019).
D15. Article 14 (Demand reduction measures concerning tobacco dependence and cessation)
Yes

D16. If yes, please provide details
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-conference workshop on Article 14 to aid in the review of progress for implementation of Article 14 and plans to continue implementation together with Dr. Martin Raw, International Center for Tobacco Cessation (ICTC). June 2017 – 5th Latin American and Caribbean Conference on Tobacco or Health in Montevideo, Uruguay – Preconference workshop on Article 14 to advance cessation. •<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Developed a smoking cessation train-the-trainers curriculum adapted to Latin America and consistent with the WHO's Building Capacity for Tobacco Control training packages. IAHF provided face-to-face Train the Trainer courses and provided Smoking Cessation Training (SCT) sessions partnering with healthcare organizations. The Train the Trainer session had 56 attendees (trainers "competent" to provide training for treating tobacco dependence primary care setting) and the Smoking Cessation training had 209 "competent" healthcare providers that routinely deliver brief interventions to help tobacco users quit and protect from exposure to second-hand smoke.
D17. Article 15 (Illicit trade in tobacco products)?
Yes
D18. If yes, please provide details
IAHF and the civil society organization CEDRO (Center for Information and Education for the Prevention of Drug Abuse) are currently developing a project in Peru to aid this Party to the FCTC to combat illicit trade in tobacco products. Peru is not yet a member of the WHO Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade of Tobacco Products (ITP), however, it has made progress in the last couple of years and there may now be support for adherence. The project will bring information to decision-makers in support of approval by means of discussing key provisions of the ITP, potential benefits, and identifying obstacles for effective implementation. This will imply the analysis of relevant Peruvian legislation and recent law enforcement (customs, police), prosecution and judicial situation regarding combatting illicit tobacco trade. The Project will make some recommendations based on ITP and the best regional and international practices in this area.
D19. Article 16 (Sales to and by minors)?
No
D21. Article 17 (Provision of support for economically viable alternative activities) and/or Article 18 (Protection of the environment and the health of persons)?
Yes
D22. If yes, please provide details
Concomitantly to participating as an observer to the UNDEP first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-1) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution (28 November to 2 December 2022 in Uruguay), IAHF became a member of the civil society group STPA (Stop Tobacco Pollution Alliance) to join efforts with other tobacco and environmental organizations to advocate for member States to ban tobacco filters as single use plastics polluting the environment and contributing to a deadly epidemic.
D23. Article 19 (Liability)?
No
D25. Article 20 (Research, surveillance and exchange of information)?
Yes
D26. If yes, please provide details
IAHF developed several projects in collaboration with CSOs from Parties to support research and surveillance. One of such efforts includes a comprehensive analysis to help CSOs in several Latin American and Caribbean Parties and Non-Parties have a situational analysis of indicators and policy landscape on main risk factors for NCDs – this included prominently tobacco as a main risk factor. The analysis was done twice in the periods of 2017-2018 and 2021-2022 in 11 countries, was led by the IAHF and was carried out in collaboration with more than 15 CSOs and individuals across Latin America and the Caribbean.
D27. Article 22 (Cooperation in the scientific, technical and legal fields and provision of related expertise)?
No

E. Other relevant activities to support the work of the WHO FCTC

E1. Please provide any other relevant information
Currently IAHF is collaborating with CEDRO in Peru in a project that involves aiding this Party to both further implement Article 6 measures and Article 15 and adherence to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products (see details on the uploaded document).

E2. Please attach any other relevant file(s)
[{"title":"Report to COP and MOP for observer status","comment":"","size":130.3857421875,"name":"250228-Report-to-COP-and-MOP-for-observer-status-f.pdf","filename":"fu_ssqq3c3mjt7ie","ext":"pdf" }]
filecount - E2. Please attach any other relevant file(s)
1

F. Declarations

F1. 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, I confirm
F2. By electronic signature I confirm that the above information is accurate and completed to the best of our abilities.
Dr. Eugenia Ramos, Executive Director - February 28, 2025
F3. 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, I confirm