

DataCol Extranet: Report of NGO observers to COP 2020

Section: Contact Details

* Name of organization

* InterAmerican Heart Foundation

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* Contact person responsible for the report

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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:

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

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* We have affiliated organizations in Argentina, Bolivia, and the Caribbean (with base in Jamaica). We also have Healthy Latin America Coalition members (CLAS or Coalición Latinoamerica Saludable) in almost all countries of the region or approximately 300 member organizations, many of them focused on tobacco control.

* 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:

* We have organized 5 Regional Tobacco or Health Conference about every three years, with the last one in Montevideo, Uruguay, June 2017. We also organized CLAS strategy meetings about every two years where tobacco control features prominently. The last one was in Panamá, December, 2019.

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.):

* The InterAmerican Heart Foundation was present at the pre-COP conference in Washington DC in 2018 and has had representation at almost all COPs, usually by a member of our organization or of our coalition. At the last COP, Alejandro Ramos was our representative, but we had others that also participated in our name

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

* Workshops on article 5.3, on taxation

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

* Article 5 (General obligations)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* The latest position statement on tobacco control Dec 2019 specifically mentions Art 5.3 and specific strategies to make authorities more aware of it. Many letters to presidents, legislators and other authorities to advocate for tobacco control policies mention Art 5.3 specifically and describe it, to encourage these authorities to be aware of the tobacco industry strategies to delay, divide, deflect and deny tobacco's burden

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

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* We were co-principal investigators with FIC Argentina in an ACS funded project to evaluate illicit trade in MERCOSUR countries with the purpose of advancing taxation in these countries. Presently advancing a program to increase awareness among students of economics at the undergraduate and graduate levels, regarding health economics and the important connection between tobacco and economic development. Additionally, with expert health economists in our region, we are working to develop a factsheet and policy brief to use with Ministers of Finance

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

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* We worked for 3 years on proposed comprehensive tobacco control legislation in Bolivia and it was just last week promulgated by the President of the Senate, a rare situation given the provisional status of the current Bolivian President.

We are also working with the Dominican Republic to advance SFE legislation.

Compliance with existing legislation, given many new tobacco products, is a challenge but we are supporting efforts in many countries.

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

* No

* If yes, please provide details:

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

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* The Bolivian legislation contains warning label clause. We also had a part in supporting President Tabaré Vázquez in advancing plain packaging of tobacco in Uruguay. Additionally, we have regular conference calls with Ecuador advocates that have a plain package proposal stuck in congress at the moment.

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

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* IAHF participates in actions for World No Tobacco day and celebrations such as the current 15th anniversary of the FCTC entering into force. There are others as opportunities arise.

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

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* This is one of the weakest strategies in our region. We disseminate information about Tobacco Industry actions to reach young people in below-the-line marketing. We support the Yul. Francisco WhatsApp group to help disseminate ways in which this Article is violated.

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

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* We have worked to develop national tobacco dependency strategies with Ministries of Health in Mexico (won Bloomberg Awards in So Africa), Bolivia, Argentina and Costa Rica. The approach follows Art 14 Guidelines. We would like to continue this very important effort but have not found funding.

* Article 15 (Illicit trade in tobacco products)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* With funding from American Cancer Society, we worked in partnership with FIC Argentina to evaluate illicit trade in Mercosur countries. In particular we were responsible for disseminating results to the region

* 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)?

* No

* If yes, please provide details:

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

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* With support from the World Heart Federation and NCD Alliance we undertook a Scorecard project to identify policies, compliance, priorities in 12 Latin American countries. Tobacco had an extensive set of questions. We have profiles for each of the countries. The Scorecard project presents a civil society perspective.

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

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* From the Healthy Latin America Coalition, we have advanced a Human Rights perspective to seek accountability of the highest level authorities. One example from a few years ago is the report to CEDAW regarding women and girls being affected by Argentina not complying with tobacco policies. More recently we reported on various industries (tobacco, alcohol, unhealthy foods, and drink) to the

Interamerican Commission on Human Rights and our points were incorporated into a report on industry and HHRR. In particular, it was mentioned that these industries were violating the right of children to well-being and the rights of all to health.

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)

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.

* Eugenia Ramos, Executive Director, February 21 2020

* 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