

# Reaccreditation report of NGO observers to COP11

## Survey response 1

Date submitted
2025-02-28 17:48:15

### A. Contact details

A1. Name of organization
International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA)
A6. Website of organization
<a href="https://ifmsa.org">https://ifmsa.org</a>

### 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?
No
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
The IFMSA is coordinated in five different regions: Africa, Americas, Asia Pacific, Eastern Mediterranean (EMR) and Europe, with more than 125 countries represented worldwide.
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
<p>The IFMSA Bylaws prohibit smoking in all public areas of the facilities hosting IFMSA events and meetings, regardless of the existing policy of the facilities. Additionally, tobacco consumption is also addressed in the Code of Conduct. Every three years, the existing Policy Document on Tobacco Consumption and Tobacco Control is reviewed and updated, incorporating emerging issues and renewing IFMSA's and its membership's commitment to this topic.</p> <p>In the agendas of the Standing Committee on Public Health (SCOPH), tobacco consumption is addressed in sessions from various perspectives, including health effects, the role of healthcare providers and youth, environmental impact, advocacy and policy, among others.</p> <p>IFMSA holds two General Assemblies annually (one in March and one in August) and five Regional Meetings (Africa in December, Americas in January, EMR in February, Europe in April and Asia Pacific in July). In addition to these gatherings, various Capacity Building events are organized throughout the year, including Sub-Regional Trainings, Online Workshops and the Youth Pre-World Health Assembly.</p>

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

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.)
COP 10 - 2023 we registered but couldn't attend in person as it was rescheduled. Attended the program organised by WHO FCTC during Walk the Talk in 2024.
C2. Please list any other meetings or conferences with a focus on tobacco control attended by your organization
Attended Global Youth Voices Meetings from Global Center for Good Governance in Tobacco Control. Several 1:1 meetings with WHO FCTC Secretariat and IFMSA, last one in October 2024, online and in person. Global Youth Voices' Virtual Summit (25th May, 2024). Invitation to Professor Nuntavarn Vichit-Vadakan nominated by WHO FCTC IFMSA Contact person as an external speaker to IFMSA Asia Pacific Regional Meeting 2024 during July in Thailand.

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

D1. Article 5 (General obligations)?
Yes
D2. If yes, please provide details
<p>As an organization, we actively support the implementation of WHO FCTC Article 5 through advocacy, education, research, and collaboration. We have a policy document on tobacco consumption, adopted in August 2022, which outlines our comprehensive stance and commitment to addressing this public health crisis. This policy identifies tobacco consumption as a global challenge requiring a multisectoral approach, and it calls for coordinated local, national, and international actions to tackle tobacco use.</p> <p>In line with this, we work with our National Member Organizations (NMOs) to advocate for stronger tobacco control measures. For example, in 2024, our Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) launched a toolkit as part of the World No Tobacco Day Campaign, focusing on "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference." This toolkit provided resources for advocacy and youth education on tobacco-related harms. Additionally, during the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) in 2024, we hosted the session "Clearing the Smoke: Navigating the Haze of Tobacco and Vaping," which featured Professor Nuntavarn Vichit-Vadakan, Director of the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub for Article 5.3. This session emphasized strategies to combat tobacco industry interference.</p> <p>At the national level, several NMOs, such as AMSA-Kyrgyzstan and TAMSAs Tanzania, have implemented impactful campaigns like "Lungs Unplugged" and "HEMA SALAMA (SAFE BREATH)" to raise awareness, educate the public, and promote tobacco control policies. Our policy document also supports meaningful youth engagement and collaboration with stakeholders to implement strategies aligned with the WHO FCTC.</p>
D3. Article 6 (Price and tax measures to reduce demand for tobacco)?
Yes
D4. If yes, please provide details
We promote advocacy efforts that indirectly support Article 6 of the WHO FCTC. For example, during our awareness campaigns, such as the "HEMA SALAMA (SAFE BREATH)" campaign in Tanzania and the 2024 EMR World No Tobacco Day initiative, we emphasise the economic burden of tobacco use on individuals and society. We educate the public about the cost of tobacco-related diseases, which exceed \$1 trillion annually in healthcare expenditures and lost productivity, as highlighted in our Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting presentation. By raising awareness of the financial impacts, we encourage governments to consider price and taxation as effective measures to reduce tobacco demand.
D5. Article 8 (Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke)?
Yes
D6. If yes, please provide details
We are committed to protecting individuals from exposure to tobacco smoke by creating smoke-free environments and raising public awareness about second-hand smoke. Our NMOs organize various campaigns to address tobacco's role as a cause of death, disease, and disability. For example, campaigns like "HEMA SALAMA (SAFE BREATH)" in Tanzania and "Lungs Unplugged" in Kyrgyzstan educate communities about the harms of passive smoking. We also enforce a no-tobacco policy at all of our events and meetings, ensuring that indoor workspaces and public spaces where our activities take place are free from tobacco smoke, regardless of local venue policies.
D7. Article 9 (Regulation of the contents of tobacco product) and/or Article 10 (Regulation of tobacco product disclosures)?
Yes

D8. If yes, please provide details
We address the regulation of the contents of tobacco products through our campaigns and educational initiatives. For example, during the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting session "Clearing the Smoke: Navigating the Haze of Tobacco and Vaping," we highlighted the dangers of harmful chemicals found in both conventional and novel tobacco products, such as e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products (HTPs). Our 2024 EMR toolkit also educates young people about the toxic substances in these products, and our NMOs, such as AMSA-Kyrgyzstan, incorporate this knowledge into public workshops and youth engagement activities. Through such efforts, we raise awareness about the need for stricter regulations on the contents and disclosure of tobacco products.
D9. Article 11 (Packaging and labelling of tobacco products)?
Yes
D10. If yes, please provide details
ampaigns such as "HEMA SALAMA (SAFE BREATH)" emphasize the importance of public health warnings and educational materials, which include visuals and information about the effects of tobacco use. For instance, the tobacco awareness initiative in Tunisia encouraged participants to use art and drawings to create impactful anti-smoking messages, which could be adapted for use on tobacco packaging. We also use our platforms to promote the importance of plain packaging and graphic health warnings as effective tools to deter tobacco use, particularly among youth.
D11. Article 12 (Education, communication, training and public awareness)?
Yes
D12. If yes, please provide details
Through its capacity-building initiatives, IFMSA trains future healthcare providers to adequately address tobacco in their communities in healthcare settings and other spaces. Additionally, IFMSA uses its social media platforms to raise awareness about the importance of youth engagement in advocacy, as well as the harmful effects of tobacco. We place a strong emphasis on education, communication, and public awareness to combat tobacco use. Through our capacity-building initiatives, we train future healthcare providers to address tobacco use in their communities and healthcare settings. For example, AMSA-Kyrgyzstan's "Lungs Unplugged" workshop trains medical students on lung health assessments while promoting awareness of the harmful effects of tobacco. In 2024, our EMR developed a toolkit as part of the World No Tobacco Day campaign, which equips our NMOs with resources to educate youth and advocate against tobacco industry interference. Additionally, we use our social media platforms to amplify messages about youth engagement in advocacy and the dangers of tobacco use.
D13. Article 13 (Tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship)?
Yes
D14. If yes, please provide details
Our campaigns strongly oppose tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship, particularly those targeting youth. For example, our 2024 EMR toolkit highlights the marketing tactics of the tobacco industry, such as the use of flavored tobacco products, celebrity endorsements, and advertisements aimed at children. During the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting, we discussed how social media platforms are flooded with child-friendly images of tobacco products, which is a violation of advertising restrictions. Additionally, our local campaigns like "Breath Free: Protect Our Future" advocate for smoke-free schools and universities, promoting policies that ban tobacco advertising in educational institutions and public spaces.
D15. Article 14 (Demand reduction measures concerning tobacco dependence and cessation)
Yes
D16. If yes, please provide details
We actively support demand reduction measures by encouraging smoking cessation and promoting smoke-free lifestyles. Campaigns like TAMSA Tanzania's "HEMA SALAMA (SAFE BREATH)" focus on providing education about the harmful effects of tobacco, second-hand smoke, and smoking cessation strategies. Similarly, "Breath Free: Protect Our Future" in Iran emphasizes creating tobacco-free environments while equipping youth with tools for advocacy and cessation. These initiatives empower individuals to make informed decisions about their health and adopt healthier lifestyles.
D17. Article 15 (Illicit trade in tobacco products)?
Yes
D18. If yes, please provide details
Although we do not directly address the illicit trade of tobacco products, we raise awareness of its consequences through our educational initiatives. For example, during the Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting, we discussed how weak regulations and enforcement enable the spread of illicit tobacco products, which undermines public health efforts. By engaging youth and advocating for stricter tobacco control policies, we indirectly support measures to combat illicit trade.

D19. Article 16 (Sales to and by minors)?
Yes
D20. If yes, please provide details
Our campaigns emphasize the importance of protecting children and youth from tobacco use, aligning with the goals of Article 16. For instance, the 2024 EMR World No Tobacco Day toolkit focuses on "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference," highlighting the predatory marketing tactics used to target minors. Campaigns like "Breath Free: Protect Our Future" work to create tobacco-free environments in schools and universities, ensuring that children are not exposed to or encouraged to purchase tobacco products.
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
We address the environmental and health impacts of tobacco through our campaigns and initiatives. For example, "HEMA SALAMA (SAFE BREATH)" educates participants about the environmental harm caused by tobacco production, such as deforestation and pollution from cigarette waste. In Tunisia, "Family Move Tunisia" promotes physical activity and healthy lifestyles as alternatives to tobacco use, demonstrating the importance of economically viable and health-conscious alternatives. These efforts align with the goals of Articles 17 and 18.
D23. Article 19 (Liability)?
No
D25. Article 20 (Research, surveillance and exchange of information)?
Yes
D26. If yes, please provide details
We engage in research and data collection to inform our advocacy efforts and strengthen tobacco control measures. For instance, AMSA-Kyrgyzstan's "Lungs Unplugged" campaign includes hands-on training and data collection through lung function tests, such as spirometry, to assess the impact of tobacco on lung health. The 2024 EMR toolkit incorporates research and surveillance data to support evidence-based advocacy against tobacco use. Additionally, during the APRM, we collaborated with Professor Nuntavarn Vichit-Vadkan, who provided insights into the tobacco epidemic and strategies to address tobacco industry interference.
D27. Article 22 (Cooperation in the scientific, technical and legal fields and provision of related expertise)?
Yes
D28. If yes, please provide details
We foster collaboration with regional and global stakeholders to enhance tobacco control strategies. For example, during the APRM 2024, we partnered with the WHO FCTC Knowledge Hub for Article 5.3 to discuss tobacco industry interference and policy recommendations. Our campaigns, such as those conducted by TAMSA Tanzania and AMSA-Kyrgyzstan, encourage knowledge-sharing among NMOs and local governments, ensuring evidence-based approaches to tobacco prevention. Additionally, the EMR toolkit serves as a valuable resource for NMOs, providing technical and strategic guidance to implement effective tobacco control initiatives.

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

E1. Please provide any other relevant information
As a youth-led organization, we actively support the implementation of the WHO FCTC through advocacy, education, and capacity-building initiatives. Campaigns like "HEMA SALAMA" by TAMSA Tanzania and "Lungs Unplugged" by AMSA-Kyrgyzstan empower individuals to make informed decisions about their health while promoting tobacco-free lifestyles. Our 2024 EMR toolkit equips National Member Organizations with resources to address the tobacco epidemic, advocate for stronger policies, and protect vulnerable populations, such as children, from tobacco industry interference. Additionally, our session during the APRM 2024, "Clearing the Smoke: Navigating the Haze of Tobacco and Vaping," reflects our commitment to collaborating with experts and stakeholders to combat tobacco use at both regional and global levels.
E2. Please attach any other relevant file(s)
[{"title":"IFMSA - Activities and Documents","comment":"","size":2167.46875,"name":"IFMSA-Reaccreditation-WHO-FCTC-compressed-(1).pdf","filename":"fu_xspu4z6ixe4hsff","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.
--

Yes, You can find the Signature Here:
---------------------------------------

<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mSK7GaC49aCtDSd9oRf2UIOlivfDyibG/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mSK7GaC49aCtDSd9oRf2UIOlivfDyibG/view?usp=sharing</a>
---

Please Request Access
-----------------------

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
----------------