

DataCol Extranet: Report of NGO observers to COP 2020

Section: Contact Details

* Name of organization

* The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease

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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:

* Yes, The Union has offices in New York, Singapore, and India, along with staff based in 9 of the 10 Bloomberg Priority Countries (China, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Vietnam, Mexico, and Brazil).

* 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:

* Yes, we convene annual meetings for our country leads and all-staff meetings every 18 months. At the country level, we hold meetings for grantees of The Union annually in most Bloomberg priority countries.

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 Union has had representation at every COP conference since 2008 (COP3, Durban). Additionally, Union staff have served as members of expert and working groups.

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

* APACT, WCTOH, ECTOH, SRNT, AP-CAT, WLC

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

* Article 5 (General obligations)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* In 2018-2019, The Union contributed to building the movement for global tobacco control through its focus on legislative and policy outcomes across MPOWER measures, industry interference, and tobacco control sustainability. The Union has made major strides forward in the promotion and adoption of WHO FCTC-compliant legislation at both national and sub-national levels.

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

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* In Bangladesh, The Union is providing technical support to develop progressive tobacco taxation model / policy (yearly and long term), policy notes and factsheets on issues like Smokeless tobacco and tobacco product's affordability to supplement tobacco tax argument. The Union has been sensitising relevant stakeholders including Ministries of Health, Finance, National Bureau of Revenue, Research institution, NGOs etc. on this issue. With the team with National Tobacco Control Cell, The Union is also working for better utilization of the fund collected from Health Development Surcharge on sale of all tobacco products. The Union helped strengthen capacity of officials at the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, other ministries, and parliamentarians on tobacco tax in both Vietnam and Indonesia. Policy position papers were developed for the MOH in Indonesia. A draft tax bill was developed with the Union's help for the MOF in Vietnam. The Union also worked closely with Bloomberg partners in developing tax models for the MOF in Vietnam. In India, the Union worked with grantees in monitoring the price and tax changes for tobacco products incurred by the introduction of GST. In Pakistan, the

Union engaged the MOH in tax discussions and coordinated with BI partners to ensure that the recommendations from both sides were aligned .

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

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* Smoke-free remained a priority policy area for the Union in 2018-2019. Significant progress in smoke-free has been made at the sub-national level in several BI priority countries. In China, two cities, Shenzhen and Lanzhou, with a combined population of 16 million, became 100% smoke-free in 2018. Hangzhou, with a population of 11 million, also passed a smoke-free law in 2018, with a grace period for certain venues. In Pakistan, The Union launched a project to replicate the successful Smoke-free Islamabad model in 5 districts in Punjab. Seven jurisdictions in India, with a total population of 12 million, were declared smoke-free in 2018. In Indonesia, a total of 187 cities and districts have adopted 100% smoke-free local laws and regulations protecting 116 million people by 2018. In the Philippines, Metro Manila Development Authority successfully facilitated the enactment of a 100% FCTC-compliant smoke-free ordinance in 10 out of 17 local government units in Metro Manila.

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

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* The Tobacco Industry filed a lawsuit against Brazil's National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA), arguing that the agency lacked legal authority to regulate tobacco products. On February 2018, Brazil's Supreme Court of Justice rejected the constitutional challenge presented by the industry. The Union is providing and working to produce technical documents, writing of an amicus curiae brief presented by FIOCRUZ in the additive litigation; building public health networks; participating in technical visits at the Supreme Court and being part of the lawyers group to discuss legal strategies for the challenges. We will continue to support ANVISA on keeping the ban and through a BI grant with Brazil's National Cancer Institute (INCA), we will continue providing technical advice and evidence on current TC policies under discussion.

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

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* The Union's grantees made several strides in 2018-2019 to advance plain packaging and PHWs globally. Grantees in both Uruguay and Turkey were instrumental in the passage of both countries' first plain packaging laws, Uruguay's being the first in the Latin American region. Additionally, several priority countries have mandated new PHWs since 2018. Finally, grantees in non-priority countries were supported to both implement and strengthen PHWs in their countries.

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

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* The Union supports grantees to host workshops for local government, civil society, and media stakeholders to sensitize them on tobacco control issues and expand public awareness of the importance of tobacco control interventions. In 2019 alone, The Union and The Union's grantees worked with over 30,000 stakeholders to build capacity in tobacco control across government, civil society, and media groups. These workshops cover a wide range of topics including introducing stakeholders to tobacco control, discussing the important role of media in advocating for stronger regulations and keeping governments accountable, and enforcing existing tobacco control laws.

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

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* The Union continues to support all Bloomberg Priority Countries, as well as several non-priority countries, to fully implement and strengthen their TAPS laws. Over the past two years there has been significant progress at the sub-national level in the Philippines, Indonesia, and India due to work done by Union grantees on both the passage and enforcement of new FCTC-compliant TAPS laws. Union staff continues to support its grantees in this area by providing technical knowledge and facilitating relationships between grantees.

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

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* The Union has made strides in expanding cessation awareness and services in two countries since 2018. In Guyana, The Union supported the government to organize a national stakeholder consultation to develop a Tobacco Cessation National Plan. Additionally, a Union grantee worked to incorporate a cessation quit-line number into Turkey's new plain packaging regulations, expanding the reach of Turkey's cessation services.

* Article 15 (Illicit trade in tobacco products)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* The Union supported several illicit trade activities from 2018-2019. Union grantees in Pakistan worked with the government to ratify the Illicit Trade Protocol. Inter-ministerial Committees from Brazil and Paraguay are working to create a joint work plan, with technical advice provided by The Union, for the implementation of FCTC and the Illicit Trade Protocol. Finally, The Union and its grantees have worked to expand the adoption of the Illicit Trade Protocol by hosting sensitization workshops and supporting the publication of papers and studies.

* 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)?

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* On 21 May 2019, the Office of the Attorney-General of Brazil filed a lawsuit against the largest tobacco corporations in Brazil and their parent companies abroad, to seek recovery of healthcare costs related to the treatment of tobacco-induced diseases. This is the first case of this kind of litigation in Latin America. Its success in favor of public health will serve as precedent and a call to countries to sue tobacco companies without fear. The Union's grantee developed technical and legal evidence to support the position of the Office of the Attorney-General of Brazil lawsuit through an Amicus Curiae within the lawsuit.

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

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* The Union works across all of its countries to research and evaluate its programs to inform policy decisions both locally, and in other countries where The Union is active. In Vietnam, The Union is working to improve the M&E capacity for the Tobacco Control Fund and tobacco control system overall through training, as well as the development of an M&E toolkit and research agenda. This work is part of a larger Union project across BI priority countries to ensure sustainability of tobacco control within the Ministry of Health and expand surveillance and research-informed policy decisions. In India, The Union continued to conduct strategic, policy-focused research and monitoring and evaluation of the tobacco control program. In Bangladesh, The Union supported two grantees to jointly organize a workshop and seminar on research-informed tobacco control policies. In Mexico, the research conducted by the INSP under The Union's grantee CONADIC (National Council against Addictions) has resulted in indicators created to measure the effects of other tobacco control policies in Mexico. Similarly, another research conducted by INSP has a result of the attributable health burden from tobacco use. These studies were released in a great effort through infographics for the 32 states of the country.

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

* Yes

* If yes, please provide details:

* The Union hosts, along with other Bloomberg Initiative partners, grantee meetings in several of its priority countries to facilitate experience sharing and collaboration. In some cases, Union grantees work across countries to share technical experience and strengthen tobacco control regionally. At a higher level, Union staff often present their work at international conferences with the goal of sharing experience across regions and sectors. The Union also works internally to urge staff to share expertise among themselves and hosts annual department meetings where country, regional, and program directors present their activities and engage in conversation with colleagues.

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.

* Gan Quan, 21 February 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