

Action on Smoking and Health and 177 co-signatories

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Young people and future generations have the right to grow up in a tobacco-free world

The United Nations Summit of the Future and its planned outcome – the Pact for the Future – is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to take co-operation within the United Nations to a new level.

It aims to unite all Member States behind a new common agenda that they are committed to continuously and consistently achieving. This agenda will stand on the shoulders of giants and take the world a big step forward. It should be built on the various United Nations human rights treaties, the SDGs, and global agreements that accelerate the achievement of the highest attainable standard of health, such as the NCD Global Action Plan and the WHO FCTC.

The practices and products of the tobacco industry negatively impact present and future generations along the entire product cycle, from tobacco growing and manufacturing to marketing, use and post-consumer waste. Tobacco is the only commercially available product that kills when used exactly as intended by the manufacturer. As a result, 8 million people die every year around the world, including 1.3 million who are killed by second-hand smoke.¹

Tobacco products are the world's largest preventable cause of death. Tobacco has a negative impact on each of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals² and is a preventable cause of violations of numerous human rights such as the right to health and the right to a healthy environment.³

Tobacco has a significant negative environmental impact costing the world 600 million trees, 200 000 hectares of land, 22 billion tonnes of water and the unwelcome production of 84 million tonnes of CO₂ and 4.5 trillion cigarette butts in litter.⁴

In addition, tobacco infringes on the rights of vulnerable populations, as exemplified by the rampant presence of child labour in the tobacco industry.⁵ In addition, around 80% of the 1.3 billion tobacco users worldwide live in low- and middle-income countries, where the burden of tobacco-related illness and death is heaviest.⁶

¹ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/tobacco>.

² <https://www.medicusmundi.ch/en/advocacy/publications/mms-bulletin/fighting-tobacco-in-lmic/einleitung/sustainable-development-or-tobacco-17-shades>.

³ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1305184?ln=en>.

⁴ <https://www.who.int/news/item/31-05-2022-who-raises-alarm-on-tobacco-industry-environmental-impact>.

⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jun/25/revealed-child-labor-rampant-in-tobacco-industry#:~:text=The%20Guardian's%20investigation%20found%3A,is%20sold%20after%20the%20harvest>.

⁶ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/tobacco>.

For good reason, tobacco control is included in the UN Sustainable Development Goals under Target 3.a which calls on countries to “Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.” The UN Development Programme (UNDP) concluded in 2017 that the WHO FCTC is an “accelerator for Sustainable Development” and human rights.

Furthermore, the Committee on the Rights of the Child affirmed that “States are required to introduce into domestic law, implement and enforce internationally agreed standards concerning children’s right to health, including the ... WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control” in its 2013 General Comment 15 designed to provide guidance towards the implementation of Art 24 of the CRC which recognizes “the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health.”⁷

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had already concluded in 2000, when addressing article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which guarantees the highest standard of Health, that “Violations of the obligation to protect follow from the failure of a State to take all necessary measures to safeguard persons within their jurisdiction from infringements of the right to health by third parties. This category includes such omissions as the failure to regulate the activities of individuals, groups or corporations so as to prevent them from violating the right to health of others; the failure to protect consumers and workers from practices detrimental to health, e.g. ...; the failure to discourage production, marketing and consumption of tobacco, ...”⁸

Young people and future generations have the right to grow up in a tobacco-free world; a concept that has been formalized by documents such as the Cape Town Declaration on Human Rights and a Tobacco Free World. With this goal in mind, numerous jurisdictions have adopted tobacco-free future generation targets, such as the European Union, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Iceland, Norway, Scotland, Sweden and more. A tobacco- free future will help protect the right to health of citizens of the world.

We therefore call on Member States and other stakeholders to ensure that the huge potential of a tobacco-free world across various human rights and sustainable development goals are included in the Pact for the Future. Specifically, we recommend including the following:

- Chapeau:

In the spirit of the aim of the Summit of the Future to advance cooperation and create the conditions to accelerate implementation of the SDGs, ensure that the WHO FCTC is mentioned anywhere where UN treaties are mentioned.

- Chapter 1: Sustainable Development and Financing for Development:

- SDG Target 3.a calls on countries to “Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control”
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development held in 2015 encourages multi sectorial partnership and better coordination with global health initiatives.
 - It also noted “that, as part of a comprehensive strategy of prevention and control, price and tax measures on tobacco can be an effective and important means to reduce tobacco consumption and health-care costs, and represent a revenue stream for financing for development in many countries”.

⁷ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1305184?ln=en>.

⁸<https://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=4slQ6QSmIBEDzFEovLCuW1AVC1NkPsgUedPIF1vfPMJ2c7ey6PAz2qaojTzDJmC0y%2B9t%2BsAtGDNzdEqA6SuP2r0w%2F6sVBGTpvTSCbiOr4XVFTqhQY65auTFbQRPWNDxL>.

- And in the area of partnerships and coordination it calls on Parties to the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control to also strengthen implementation of the FCTC.
- Chapter 4: Youth and Future Generations:
 - urge Member States to work toward a tobacco-free world and support the accelerated implementation of the WHO FCTC.
- Chapter 5: Transforming Global Governance
 - Urge Member States and United Nations organizations to adhere to WHO FCTC Article 5.3 – exclusion of the tobacco industry from public policy making. The tobacco industry is not a legitimate stakeholder and an obstruction for the achievement of the human right to health, other human rights and sustainable development. Members should consider rules like Article 5.3 for other harmful industries.

We wish the Member States of the United Nations a constructive debate and successful negotiations for the Pact for the Future.

Endorsing organizations:

Action on Smoking and Health (ASH)
 Action on Smoking & Health (ASH) Philippines
 Afectados por tabaquismo en Extremadura (ATAEX)
 African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council
 African Tobacco Control Alliance (ATCA)
 Afrique Contre le Tabac (ACONTA)
 Afrique Sans Tabac
 Air Health Our Health
 Aktion Weißes Friedensband e.V.
 Alameda County Tobacco Control Coalition
 Alianza Bolivia Libre Sin Tabaco
 Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights
 AMOSAPU
 Anti-Vaping Champions at UCLA
 APEPOC- Asociacion Española de Pacientes con EPOC y Familiares
 Arizonans Concerned About Smoking, Inc.
 ASH Canada
 ASH Finland
 ASH Ireland, Council of the Irish Heart Foundation
 ASH Scotland
 ASH Thailand
 Asian Consultancy on Tobacco Control, Hong Kong, China
 Asian Pacific Islander Coalition Advocating Together for Health
 Asociația pentru Chirurgie Toracică Modernă în Craiova
 AT Switzerland
 Austrian Council on Smoking and Health
 BCH Africa Cameroon
 Beit Torah Congregation
 Belgian Foundation Against Cancer
 BLUE 21 / Unfairtobacco
 Breathe PA
 Breathe Southern California
 California Health Collaborative
 Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
 Cancer association
 Catholic Charities

CEDRO- Centro de Información y Educación para la Prevención del Abuso de Drogas
Centre for Primary Care Research, Lusaka
Centro de Apoio ao Tabagista - CAT
Centro de Epidemiología y Políticas de Salud
Cigarette Butt Pollution Project
CLAS Coalition for Americas' Health
CNPT
Coalition for a Tobacco Free Puerto Rico
CODAC Behavioral Healthcare
Colorado Black Health Collaborative
Comisión Nacional Permanente de Lucha Antitabaquica- COLAT
Comité national contre le tabagisme
Community Action Against Plastic Waste (CAPWs)
Community Action, Service & Advocacy (CASA)
Corporate Accountability
DNF-Demain sera Non-Fumeur
Doctors against Tobacco
Dokuz Eylül University Faculty of Nursing
Earth Day Network
Emphysema Foundation of America
Entertainers Speak Out
Equity and Wellness Institute
European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention - ENSP
FAECAP Federación de Asociaciones de Enfermería Familiar y Comunitaria
Federación de Asociaciones de Enfermería Familiar y Comunitaria
FIC Argentina
Foundation "Smart Health - Health in 3D"
Foundation for a smoke free Taiwan
Fresh (Making Smoking History)
Fundación Bolivia Saludable (FBS)
Fundación de educación para la salud
Fundación Educación Para La Salud Bolivia (FES)
Georgians for Responsible Marijuana Policy
German Cancer Research Center
GRESP/APMGF
Hāpai Te Hauora
Healis Sekhsaria Institute for Public Health--I am an affiliate
Health Developments and Anti Malaria Association
Health Futures Foundation, Inc.
Healthier Lyon County
HealthJustice Philippines
Healthy DC & Me Leadership Coalition
Hellenic Thoracic Society
Indian Cancer Society
Indonesia Health Policy Forum (RUKKI)
Innovations for Community Health, Inc.
Insight Analysis Group
Institute for Social Marketing and Health, University of Stirling
International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)
International Tobacco Control Policy Evaluation Project (the ITC Project)
Israel Council for the Prevention of Smoking
Japan Society for Tobacco Control
Jindal School of Public Health and Human Development
Jogja Sehat Tanpa Tembakau

Kavali Consulting LLC
Korea Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education
Kosovo Advocacy and Development Centre - KADC
Lentera Anak Foundation
Leung Law PLLC
Lovexair Foundation
M.I. Mother's Keeper
Macedonian Respiratory Society
Making it Count CDC
Malaysian Women's Action for Tobacco Control and Health (MyWATCH)
Maldives Family Foundation
Melbourne Centre for Behaviour Change
MOPH Afghanistan
National Institute of Health-S. Avdalbekyan-Ncd unit
New York State Public Health Association
NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence on Achieving the Tobacco Endgame
Nofumadores.org
North American Quitline Consortium
Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition
Norwegian Cancer Society
Nursing Association of Moldova
NY SAHY
OneSea Foundation
Parents Against Vaping E-cigarettes
Parvarish Recovery Center
Permanent National Commission for the Fight Against Tobacco COLAT - Perú
Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada
Plastic Pollution Coalition
Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation / Tobacco 21
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
PROGGA
Public Health Advocacy Institute
Rajasthan Cancer Foundation
Research and Creative Dialogue Foundation
Resource Center for Tobacco Control
Respiratory Health Association
Romanian Society of Pneumology
Salud Justa MX
Sandvik Health Empowerment Foundation
SCATT
Sierra Leone Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition
Slovenian NCD Alliance
Smoke-Free Marin
Smoke Free Israel
Smoke Free St Joe
Smoke-Free Baguio
Smoke-free Bulgaria Association
SmokeFree Tasmania
Social Liberation and Health promotion network
Society for Oral Cancer and Health
Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA)
Spanish society on Family and Community Medicine (semFYC)
St.Hemmingways Community Based Organization
Stan Martin Consulting, LLC

Swedish Nurses against Tobacco
Swiss Association for Tobacco Control
T&T Consulting Limited
Tambayan Center for Children's Rights, Inc.
Teachers against Tobacco
Tennessee Tribune Newspaper
Thailand Health Promotion Institute
The Arab Council for Social Responsibility
The Center for Black Health and Equity
The Danish Heart Foundation
The Last Plastic Straw
The Lutheran Outreach Community Based Organization (LOC)
The National Jordanian anti-smoking society
The NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence on Achieving the Tobacco Endgame
Tobacco control alliance, Georgia
Tobacco Control Research Group
Tobacco Free Association of Zambia
Tobacco Free Jordan
Tobacco Free Portfolios
Tobacco-Free Sonoma County Community Coalition
Transcending Institutions and Communities, Inc.
UFOP - Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto
Uganda National Health Consumers Organisation
Universidad de Extremadura
University of Buner
University of Cyprus
Vision for Alternative Development
Vision Mondiale de la Santé
Vital Strategies
VIVID - Institute for the Prevention of Addiction
Youth and Women for Change in Eswatini
Zambia Heart and Stroke Foundation
Zambia NCD Alliance