

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.<sup>1</sup>

Tobacco products are the world's largest preventable cause of death. Tobacco has a negative impact on each of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals<sup>2</sup> and is a preventable cause of violations of numerous human rights such as the right to health and the right to a healthy environment.<sup>3</sup>

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 CO<sub>2</sub> and 4.5 trillion cigarette butts in litter.<sup>4</sup>

In addition, tobacco infringes on the rights of vulnerable populations, as exemplified by the rampant presence of child labour in the tobacco industry.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup>

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

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup> <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>.

<sup>6</sup> <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.”<sup>7</sup>

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, ...”<sup>8</sup>

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”.

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

<sup>8</sup><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