

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS ACCUSE DELEGATIONS FROM GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

OF HINDERING THE WORK OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE WHO FCTC

- **Government delegates from Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic are in the crosshairs of the undersigned civil organizations who have no conflict of interest with the tobacco industry.**
- **They interfere via delaying strategies to advance the COP 9 agenda: on the first day there was no progress.**
- **They hinder the consensus agreed upon by the vast majority of the parties that make up the treaty in the preparatory meetings**
- **Organizations without conflict of interest encouraged the rest of the governments to discuss the substantive issues and operate as a bloc for the sake of consensus and the achievement of agreements.**

Tuesday, November 9, 2021. Yesterday opened the Ninth Conference of the Parties (COP9) to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC)¹, to which 182 signatory States Parties to the treaty are convened, as well as other invited guests with the right to speak, but not to vote (non-signatory countries, international agencies and civil society organizations free of conflict of interest from around the world). The meeting will continue until Friday.

During the first day of the session, government delegates from Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic the latter State not being party to the WHO FCTC– repeatedly obstructed the work of the global meeting, the first to be organized virtually, after having been postponed for a year due to the global contingency of COVID-19 (to date, 3 years have passed since COP8).

Questioning the validity of the quorum, the lack of information on an agenda sent months prior, and questioning the resolution mechanisms, these representatives did not allow the rest of the delegates of the member countries of the Convention to even agree on the agenda. The agenda was not approved until today during the plenary session. It is not the first time that several of these delegates have acted in line with the interests of the tobacco industry, which is not interested in advancing public health policies and WHO FCTC measures².

The University of Bath anticipated this due to direct grants from the tobacco industry to front groups that would hinder the work of COP9, such as the International Network of Nicotine Consumer Organizations (INNCO), which received \$65,000 to interfere with COP9; or the organization Knowledge-Action-Change (K-A-C), publisher of the Global State of Tobacco-Harm Reduction (GSTHR) reports, who is also sponsored by the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World (FSFW)³. However, this obstruction by representatives of these countries exceeds the negative expectations that were originally anticipated.

A global report released last week by STOP anticipated that the governments of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic face the most interference by the tobacco industry. Scored by region, the Dominican Republic had the highest industry interference score worldwide (96 out of a possible 100), followed by Guatemala (72), Honduras (59), and Nicaragua (50)⁴.

Civil society organizations free from any kind of conflict of interest with the tobacco industry, and committed to the implementation of the WHO's FCTC, demand that government delegates from Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic cease their repeated attempts to delay negotiations on this international public health treaty that helps safeguard the lives of the more than 8 million people who die each year from the tobacco epidemic.

We encourage the rest of the governments to discuss the substantive issues and operate as a bloc in the interest of continuing the dialogue among delegations in order to reach consensus and finalize agreements.

Signatories,

- 1.- Acción contra el Alcoholismo, A. C. (México).
- 2.- AMBIO (Costa Rica).
- 3.- ACT Promoção da Saúde (Brasil).
- 4.- Alianza Antitabaco (Ecuador).
- 5.- Alianza Boliviana Libre Sin Tabaco (Bolivia).
- 6.- Alianza contra el Tabaco, A. C. ACTA (México).
- 7.- Alianza Dominicana Antitabaquismo (República Dominicana).
- 8.- Alianza ENT (Perú)
- 9.- Alianza ENT Uruguay (Uruguay)
- 10.- Alianza Nacional para el Control del Tabaco ALIENTO (México).
- 11.- Alianza por la Salud (Bolivia).
- 12.- Alzheimer México, IAP (México).
- 13.- Asociación Costa Rica Saludable (Costa Rica).
- 14.- Asociación Costarricense de Cardiología ASOCAR (Costa Rica).
- 15.- Asociación de Pacientes con Anemia Hemolítica y Sobrecarga de Hierro, A. C. (México).
- 16.- Asociación Mexicana de Fibrosis Quística, A. C. (México).
- 17.- Asociación Mexicana de Diabetes, A. C.
- 18.- Asociación Mexicana de Lucha contra el Cáncer (México).
- 19.- Asociación Mexicana de Médicos en Formación AMMEF, A. C. (México).
- 20.- Asociación Nacional de farmacias de México, A. C. ANAFARMEX (México).
- 21.- Asociación Renal Venados, A. C.
- 22.- Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids CTFK (Organización global).

- 23.- CEDRO, Centro de Información y Educación para la Prevención del Abuso de Drogas (Perú).
- 24.- CENCASS (El Salvador)
- 25.- Centro de Respuestas Comunitarias y Educativas CRECE. (México).
- 26.- Chile Libre de Tabaco (Chile).
- 27.- CIET Uruguay + Salud (Uruguay).
- 28.- Clínica del Tabaco (México).
- 29.- Coalición América Saludable CLAS (Organización en la región de las Américas).
- 30.- Coalición México Salud-Hable. (México).
- 31.- Coalición Paraguay sin Tabaquismo (Paraguay).
- 32.- COLAT (Perú)
- 33.- Colegio de Especialistas para la Atención de las Adicciones, A. C. (México).
- 34.- Comité Interinstitucional para la Lucha contra el Tabaco (México).
- 35.- Comunicación, Diálogo y Conciencia, SC (México).
- 36.- Consejo Mexicano contra el Tabaquismo, A. C. (México).
- 37.- CONTRAPESO (México).
- 38.- Corazón Rosa, A. C. Latiendo Juntos contra el Cáncer (México).
- 39.- Corporate Accountability, Oficina América Latina (Colombia).
- 40.- Educar Consumidores (Colombia).
- 41.- Edulegal (Colombia)
- 42.- Exhala, Ex – Fumadores Aliados contra la Adicción (México).
- 43.- Fundación Anáas (Colombia).
- 44.- Fundación InterAmericana del Corazón Argentina (Argentina).

- 45.- Fundación InterAmericana del Corazón Bolivia (Bolivia).
- 46.- Fundación Salud, Ambiente y Desarrollo (Ecuador).
- 47.- Fundahabla (El Salvador)
- 48.- Gracias, No Fumo, S. C. Querétaro (México).
- 49.- Libre del Tabaco (Paraguay).
- 50.- Liga Colombiana Contra el Cáncer (Colombia)
- 51.- Mesa Ciudadana Tabaco o Salud (Chile).
- 52.- Mesa Colombiana de Incidencia por las Enfermedades Crónicas (Colombia).
- 53.- Pacientes en Acción, A. C. (México).
- 54.- PREVEN, A. C. (México).
55. Programa de Investigación y Prevención del Tabaquismo Facultad de Medicina UNAM (México).
- 56.- Public Health Institute (EUA)
- 57.- Red contra el Cáncer (México).
- 58.- Red Nacional Antitabaco, RENATA (Costa Rica).
- 59.- Red Papaz (Colombia)
- 60.- Refleacciona, A. C. (México).
- 61.- Salud Crítica (México).
- 62.- Salud Justa Mx (México).
- 63.- Seminario de Estudios Prospectivos UNAM (México).
- 64.- Sindicato Médico del Uruguay (Uruguay).
- 65.- Sociedad Uruguaya de Tabacología (Uruguay).
- 66.- Súmate El Salvador (El Salvador).

¹ <https://fctc.who.int/es/who-fctc/governance/conference-of-the-parties/ninth-session-of-the-conference-of-the-parties>

² COP 8 Boletín FCA, Ginebra Suiza "han visto a este delegado (traducción propia)" https://www.fctc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/FCA-Bulletin-Delhi_Day-3_PRINT.pdf
COP7 Boletín FCA, Nueva Delhi-India. "Premio cenicero" (traducción propia). Ver nota: https://www.fctc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/COP-2018_Day-3_Wed-Oct-3_WEB-1.pdf
Centro de Recursos COP9 y MOP2: Maximizando la transparencia y la responsabilidad jurídica de la industria tabacalera. Ver nota: <https://www.corporateaccountability.org/cop9-es/>

³ Ver notas: <https://tobaccotactics.org/wiki/cop9-map2-interference-industry-and-allies/> y <https://tobaccotactics.org/wiki/tii-cop/>

⁴ Ver notas: <https://globaltobaccoindex.org/>