



SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS OF ARTICLE 5.3

Article 5.3 guidelines advise any interaction with the tobacco industry on matters related to tobacco control should be accountable and transparent. This excludes meetings held for customer compliance issues and operational meetings on illicit tobacco.

- The guidelines recommend :

1

Protection against tobacco industry interference: Governments must actively safeguard public health policies from the influence and interference of the tobacco industry.

2

Scope of application : The obligations under Article 5.3 apply to all public officials, representatives, and employees of government bodies involved in public health or tobacco control.

3

Limited and transparent interactions: Governments should engage with the tobacco industry only when strictly necessary and must ensure full transparency in all such interactions.

4

No partnerships or non-binding agreements: Governments must reject any form of partnership, voluntary arrangement, or non-binding agreement with the tobacco industry.

5

No industry involvement in policy-making: Governments must exclude the tobacco industry from participating in the development, drafting, or implementation of tobacco control legislation and policies.

6

No tobacco industry role in public health initiatives: Governments must prohibit the tobacco industry from participating in youth education, public awareness campaigns, or any public health programs.

7

Prevention of conflicts of interest: Measures must be adopted to prevent conflicts of interest involving public officials and the tobacco industry, including employment, ownership, gifts, and political contributions.

8

Transparency and disclosure requirements: The tobacco industry should be required to publicly disclose its activities, including production, marketing, lobbying efforts, revenues, and political donations.

9

Denormalization of tobacco industry CSR Activities : Governments must denormalize and strictly regulate the so-called “corporate social responsibility” (CSR) initiatives of the tobacco industry.

10

Prohibition of incentives or benefits: Governments must not grant the tobacco industry any incentives, privileges, tax exemptions, or other benefits.

11

Compliance by State-Owned tobacco enterprises: Governments that own or invest in tobacco companies must ensure these enterprises fully comply with the FCTC and do not undermine its implementation.