

**DECLARATION OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN DELEGATION  
OF THE 15TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON TOBACCO OR HEALTH SINGAPORE  
2012**

**The civil society organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean who strive to promote tobacco control policies within the framework of the World Conference on Tobacco or Health of 2012, express:**

*Recognizing* that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have made significant with regards to tobacco control policies in the last decade.

*Considering* that 29 of 35 countries have ratified the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) of the World Health Organization (WHO).

*Highlighting* that in Latin American and the Caribbean, **14 countries have enacted laws for 100% smoke-free environments.**

*Considering* that **15 countries have enacted laws with pictorial health warnings on cigarette packages.**

*Noting* that **10 countries have comprehensive restrictions on the advertising, promotion, and sponsorship of tobacco products and 2 countries have total bans on advertising.**

*Highlighting* the growing existence of a dynamic regional collaboration between countries to promote tobacco control policies.

*Noting* with concern the aggressive interference of the tobacco industry in all countries to block the enactment and implementation of effective tobacco control policies through litigation strategies, lobbying, intimidation and economic support to governments, among others.

*Noting* with great concern the evident interference of the tobacco industry to prevent the adoption of reforms aimed at promoting health and countries free of tobacco. Among these include in Chile, interference to weaken the current law to implement 100% smoke-free environments, in Mexico efforts to block the amendment of the General Law on Tobacco Control, in Argentina the interference in regulation of the National Law, in El Salvador the setback legislation authorizing 100% smoke-free environments suffered, in Brazil and Costa Rica the intense interference of the tobacco industry to avoid the recent adoption of national

laws in both countries, in Uruguay the demands of Philip Morris International to the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) challenging the sovereignty of governments to protect the public health of their citizens and in Panama the demands of British American Tobacco (BAT) against the government's proposal to ban the display of tobacco products at the point of sale.

*Noting* with great concern the recent approval of the law in Guatemala on tobacco taxes that are not within the recommended international standards for the implementation of effective public policies. Highlighting that in Jamaica, Bolivia and Paraguay, the tobacco industry has interfered in all efforts for the approval of tobacco control policies.

*Recalling* the actions of the tobacco industry seeking to undermine governmental tobacco control policies and that it is a right of states to define and implement national public health policies designed to guarantee all persons the right to the highest attainable standard of health, we call on all governments to take the following steps:

- To those who have not, ratify the WHO FCTC (Argentina, El Salvador, Cuba, and Dominican Republic).
- For those who have ratified we urge you to apply public policies in line with the WHO FCTC and other international standards to guarantee the welfare and health of their countries.
- We urge all governments to adopt policies for the implementation of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC ensuring the exclusion of the tobacco industry from the negotiation of tobacco control policies, and ensure transparency and mechanisms for anti-corruption policies.

*We specifically request* the following:

That the Government of Argentina do not delay the regulations to the national law and its implementation,

That the Government of Brazil move forward with regulating the national law,

That Chile's Parliament pass legislation to ensure the protection of all people, by implementing 100% smoke-free environments.

That the Governments of Jamaica, Bolivia and Paraguay do not yield to pressure from industry and pass legislation in line with the FCTC.

That the Government of Mexico not gives in to the lobby of the tobacco industry and ensures transparency in the modification of the general tobacco control law.

That the governments of Uruguay and Panama remain strong and continue to advance in tobacco control policies, both being an example of perseverance and hard work in the control of tobacco.

The undersigned organizations endorse this statement,

ACT – Brasil

ACTA- Mexico

ALIENTO - Mexico

Acción para la Promoción de Ambientes Libres de Tabaco (APALTA) -Honduras

Asociacion Nacional Contra el Tabaquismo - Guatemala

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (TFK)

Centro de Investigación para la Epidemia del Tabaquismo (CIET) - Uruguay

Chile Libre de Tabaco

Coalición Panameña Contra el Tabaquismo (COPACET)

Corporate Accountability International - Colombia

Comisión Nacional Permanente de Lucha Antitabáquica (COLAT) – Perú

Exfusal, El SalvadorFramework Convention Alliance (FCA)

El Instituto Centroamericano de la Salud - Nicaragua

Fundación Interamericana del Corazón Argentina -FIC Argentina

Fundación Interamericana del Corazón México -FIC México

Fundación Interamericana del Corazón

Fundación para la educación y el desarrollo social (FES) Colombia

Gracias No Fumo S.C.

La Alianza Hondureña Antitabaco