

**LETTER FROM
TOBACCO CONTROL CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS
TO
THE SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

**_*_*_*_*_

22 May 2019

Distinguished members of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,

Adopt Strong Tobacco Control Regulations in Nigeria

Please accept the regards of the under-mentioned civil society organisations that are engaged in promoting public health and protecting the population of Africa from the deadly consequences of tobacco use.

The purpose of our letter is to appeal to you to approve your country's draft National Tobacco Control Regulations during the current session of the National Assembly which ends on June 6, 2019. We understand that these Regulations have already been adopted by the House of Representatives, and is awaiting your assent.

According to the World Health Organisation, tobacco use is responsible for innumerable diseases, causing almost nine of every 10 cases of lung cancer. Also, tobacco is the only product which kills more than 50% of its users. In Nigeria, more than 5.6 million adults and 25,000 children use tobacco each day, leading to more than 16,100 deaths every year, which equates to 300 deaths every week.

With a view to controlling the growing epidemic of tobacco use, Nigeria ratified the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control of the World Health Organisation (WHO FCTC) in 2005. Ratification legally obligates the country to implement the treaty. However, we note with concern that the National Tobacco Control Act passed in 2015 is still awaiting the adoption of the Regulations governing its implementation. In the meantime, Nigeria is bearing the full brunt of an ever-increasing epidemic of tobacco use.

Distinguished Senators, adoption of the Tobacco Control Regulations is critical for an effective implementation of the National Tobacco Control Act, 2015. It provides Nigeria the unique opportunity to align with the requirements of the WHO-FCTC and demonstrate its global leadership in tobacco control.

Furthermore, we are aware that the tobacco industry will leave no stone unturned to dissuade you from adopting the Regulations in order to continue benefiting from the legislative vacuum to market its deadly products in Nigeria. We appeal to you to resist the manoeuvres of the tobacco industry and place the health and welfare of the Nigerian population above the vested interests of the tobacco industry.

Distinguished members of the Senate, we look forward to the approval of the draft Regulations during the current session of the Senate. It will long be remembered as your legacy and your strong commitment to protecting the present and future generations from the dire health and socio-economic consequences of tobacco use.

Please don't wait; approve strong Tobacco Control Regulations now!!!

Sincerely yours,





Signatory Organisations

A- International organisations with tobacco control programs in Africa

- 1- Framework Convention Alliance (FCA)
- 2- Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK)

B- Regional organisations

- 3- African Tobacco Control Alliance (ATCA)
- 4- Center for Tobacco Control in Africa (CTCA)
- 5- Africa Centre for Tobacco Industry Monitoring and Policy Research (ATIM)
- 6- Observatoire du tabac en Afrique Francophone (OTAF)

C- National organisations

- 1- Benin
 - 7- Initiative pour l'Education et le Contrôle du Tabagisme (IECT)
- 2- Botswana
 - 8- Anti Tobacco Network (ATN)

3- Burkina Faso

- 9- Union des Associations Contre le Tabac (UACT)
- 10- Afrique Contre le Tabac (ACONTA)

4- Burundi

- 11- Health Healing Network Burundi (HHNB)

5- Cameroon

- 12- Coalition Camerounaise Contre le Tabac (C3T)
- 13- Association Life

6- Chad

- 14- Association pour la Défense des Droits des Consommateurs (ADC)

7- Congo

- 15- Réseau des ONG Congolaises de Lutte Anti-Tabac (ROCAT)

8- Cote d'Ivoire

- 16- Comité/Club Unesco pour la lutte contre la drogue et autres pandémies (CLUCOD)
- 17- ONG Ecole Sans Tabac -Vie Ecolo

9- Democratic Republic of Congo

- 18- Alliance Congolaise pour le Contrôle de Tabac (ACCT)
- 19- Action Solidarité Recherche en Milieu Réel (ASOREMIR)

10- Ethiopia

- 20- Mathiwos Wondu-YeEthiopia Cancer Society

11- Gabon

- 21- Mouvement populaire pour la santé (MPS)

12- Ghana

- 22- Vision for Alternative Development (VALD)

13- Kenya

- 23- Online Voices
- 24- International Institute for Legislative Affairs
- 25- Kenya Tobacco Control Alliance (KETCA)
- 26- Consumer Information Network (CIN)

14- Madagascar

- 27- NY SAHY

15- Malawi

- 28- Drug Fight Malawi

16- Mauritius

- 29- VISA – Mauritius

17- Mauritania

- 30- Association Mauritanienne de Lutte contre la Tuberculose, le Tabac et le SIDA (AMALUTS)

18- Mozambique

31- Mozambique Public Health Association (AMOSAPU)

19- Niger

32- SOS Tabagisme Niger

20- Nigeria

33- Environmental Rights Action (ERA)

34- Gatefield

21- Senegal

35- Ligue Sénégalaise Contre Le Tabac (LISTAB)

22- Sierra Leone

36- Health For All Coalition Sierra Leone (HFAC SL)

23- South Africa

37- National Council Against Smoking (NCAS)

24- Tanzania

38- Tanzania Tobacco Control Forum (TTCF)

25- The Gambia

39- African Network for Information & Action Against Drug (RAID-The Gambia)

26- Togo

40- Alliance Nationale des Consommateurs et de l'Environnement (ANCE)

41- Association Togolaise de Lutte contre l'Alcoolisme et les Autres Toxicomanies (ATLAT)

27- Uganda

42- Center for Health Human rights and Development (CEHURD)

43- Uganda Health Communication Alliance (UHCA)

44- Uganda national Health Users Consumers Organisation (UNHCO)

28- Zambia

45- Smoke-Free Alliance Zambia (SFAZ)

46- Tobacco-Free Association of Zambia (TOFAZA)

47- Zambia Heart and Stroke Foundation (ZAHESFO)

29- Zimbabwe

48- Youth against Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (YADD)

**_*_*_*