

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ALLIANCE

FCA Office

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

KYLIE LINDORFF



Dear FCA Members,

As I sit down to write this letter in early 2020, the world is facing the frightening reality of the COVID-19 pandemic. Countries are scrambling to put public health measures in place to stop its spread, the development of effective treatment and a vaccine is being fast-tracked, the number of lives lost is being reported on daily, previously unthinkable amounts of funding have been released by governments to provide both health and economic support, global collaboration is being prioritised and governments are seeking, and rapidly acting on, the advice of public health experts. All are responses that are vital to reduce the number of lives that will potentially be lost to this dreadful infection.


Now, let me take you back to the opening paragraph of the letter from FCA's Executive Director in the 2018 FCA Annual Report:

Imagine the world faced a deadly disease that had infected one quarter of the global population and was on track to kill half of those infected. And imagine we had a package of effective low-cost vaccines and treatments that had already been tested over decades in a number of countries. But imagine further that the world's leaders couldn't quite muster the political will and the funds to actually roll out that package in a timely way.

That scenario seems unthinkable when compared to the current response to the COVID-19 outbreak. It is, unfortunately, the reality that we in tobacco control work year after year to attempt to change. FCA remains at the forefront of global activity to strategically accelerate this change.

In 2019 the FCA continued work to prioritise implementation of the FCTC as a key measure to achieving the SDGs with a focus on securing and maintaining funding for tobacco control. In March we met with a broad coalition of civil society actors, development and development finance experts and academics. This meeting resulted in FCA producing a comprehensive sustainable funding campaign strategy, supported by this coalition. Campaign outcomes included advocacy mini briefs, a resource database, and a rapid scoping exercise to determine the priorities for key development agencies.

We also recognised that some civil society actors need support to understand how decisions about spending on health issues are made and how to carry out campaigns aimed at increasing budget allocations for tobacco control plans and programmes. We launched budget advocacy pilot projects in Senegal and Uganda and we are currently working on developing resource materials, a toolkit and lessons learned from the first round of the pilot project.



Work also continued with civil society organisations in the African region to promote tobacco taxation as a domestic revenue generation stream for the government to reduce tobacco use and finance health initiatives; key drivers to achieve rapid progress towards the SDGs.

Tobacco industry interference remains an enormous barrier to implementation of the FCTC and one that will no doubt be on the agenda for COP9. In 2019 after a long campaign over more than three years, FCA alongside its partners, members, trade unions, media and governments succeeded in having the ILO end its decade-long involvement with tobacco industry corporate social responsibility schemes. Congratulations to all involved.

These are only some of the highlights of our full workload in 2019, a year that was a non-COP year. There is a dangerous misperception that continues to linger that the FCTC centres around the COP that happens every 2 years and that in intervening years, FCTC work slows down and can be given a lower priority. Nothing could be further from the truth. The intervening years are crucial for progressing work that results from previous COP decisions, for ensuring implementation of the FCTC is recognised as necessary if we are to reduce the global burden of NCDs and attain the SDGs, to engage in advocacy and provide support to Parties that are struggling to fulfil their FCTC obligations and to undertake strategic policy analysis in order to facilitate the best use of time at the next COP.

In 1999 the FCA was formed to support the development and implementation of the world's first and only public health treaty, the WHO FCTC. Today, as the only civil society organization whose work is solely focused on ensuring that Parties fulfil their obligations under the Treaty, we are widely recognized as the leading civil society voice on tobacco control globally.

Many other CSOs, and indeed those who make up Party delegations, work across a range of public health issues, particularly in non-COP years. The importance of FCA's expertise, institutional memory and specific mission in both COP and non-COP years cannot be underestimated. Yet unfortunately, like many of our members, funding for our work is often scarce, short-term and narrowly focused, making achieving our mission of reducing preventable deaths from tobacco use even more difficult. As such, I wish to sincerely thank our partners and funders who understand the breadth, complexity and fundamental importance of the work FCA undertakes and who provide the crucial support that enables our staff and members to do what they do best, year in year out - save lives.

A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FRANCIS THOMPSON



It is difficult to predict how the next few years will go in global tobacco control.

If 2020 were simply an extension of the last year, we could expect to see small victories in FCTC implementation in surprising places. In 2019, for example, pictorial health warnings on tobacco packs spread to Ethiopia, Nigeria, Uganda and Maldives, bringing the global total to at least 125 countries. Two decades ago, no country yet had them, yet they were recommended in FCTC Article 11 and have been widely adopted.

Similarly, plain packaging requirements – recommended in 2008 in two sets of FCTC guidelines, for Articles 11 and 13 – continue to spread. And on the tax score, even one of the few large countries in the world not to sign on to the FCTC, Indonesia, finally decided in 2019 to increase its tobacco taxes.

The flip side is that, even before the world was gripped by the Covid-19 pandemic, governments were mostly failing to treat the tobacco epidemic with the seriousness it deserves. After a decade and a half of FCTC implementation, we still had rising death tolls from smoking. The percentage of the world population using tobacco has begun to fall, but the actual number of smokers has remained almost constant since the turn of the century, at 1.1 billion.

At COP8 in 2018, Parties agreed to a Global Strategy to Accelerate Tobacco Control – a to-do list for the world, in its efforts to achieve a 30% reduction in prevalence by 2025, relative to 2010.

As you will get a taste of in this report, FCA and its members worked hard in 2019 to do what we can to hit that ambitious target.

Now, however, governments' attention has shifted, rightfully, to the immediate health emergency. The task for tobacco control is now to think about what FCTC implementation looks like after coronavirus.

Three trends should give us hope.

First, it is hard to think of a time in recent history when decision-makers and voters have spent so much of their time discussing public health and epidemiology. This crash course should eventually carry over into a better appreciation of the importance of population-wide prevention measures such as tobacco control.

Second, because of the sharp rise in unemployment, there is and will continue to be huge pressure on governments to invest in job creation. This should mean a large ramp-up in investments in the public sector, starting of course with health.

Third, for all the travel restrictions and closed borders we are experiencing, people are also getting a crash course in how interconnected the world is. We share a small planet and a joint responsibility for each other. There will be tremendous pressure to rebuild and expand multilateral institutions and to negotiate agreements so we are better prepared for future pandemics.

The FCTC, as the first modern-day global public health treaty, anticipated all three of these trends.

It is up to us to be ready to propose practical steps to speed up the Convention's implementation when governments have time to think about how to rebuild a better, stronger and fairer global health system.

TOBACCO CONTROL AND THE SDGs

In 2015, the world agreed on a collection of goals for making the world a better and more sustainable place: the Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs.

FCA successfully pushed for an explicit mention of the FCTC in the Goals as a way to achieve the health goal ("Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing at all ages"). We followed up with this by advocating for the Global Strategy at COP8 in 2018 -- which is subtitled "Advancing Sustainable Development through Implementation of the WHO FCTC".

In 2019, we continued to pursue this work at the intersection of tobacco control and development. Accelerating progress in development requires progress in global health, including significant investments in the implementation of the FCTC. Tobacco control has much to offer as a key component of sustainable development and advancing the FCTC will increase momentum towards the SDGs.

For example, reducing demand for tobacco products can have positive health outcomes (SDG 3), which in turn decreases financial burden and increases involvement in the labour market. This improves household finances as well as country- level economic growth patterns (SDG 8).

But the positive outcomes don't stop there. Reducing demand for tobacco products also helps the environment in many ways, including by reducing tobacco-related waste which damages the world's oceans (SDG 14).

However, to ensure progress on tobacco control in pursuit of the SDGs, governments have to ramp up their funding for FCTC implementation.

In 2019, FCA's work focused on strengthening FCTC implementation by pushing governments to take steps at the global, regional and national levels to meet their long-standing FCTC commitments; by kick-starting a program to build the capacity of civil society organisations for budget and tobacco taxation advocacy; and by showcasing the connections between tobacco control and development issues in a campaign to garner sustainable funding in this area.

FCA thanks its funders, key partners, and supporters in helping encourage all stakeholders to focus on proven tobacco control measures, adequate collaboration, and protection of public health policies from the undue influence of the tobacco industry.





FULFILLING FCTC COMMITMENTS

What happens when Parties to the FCTC don't meet or can't meet their treaty obligations? Until now, the honest answer has been: not much. That is now changing, as a result of the Global Strategy to Accelerate Tobacco Control adopted in 2018, at the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC. The Global Strategy's adoption was the FCA's top advocacy objective in 2018.

One of the significant initiatives under the Global Strategy is piloting what is known as an Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM). IRMs, which exist under many treaties, involve a peer review of Parties' implementation of their treaty obligations. In the case of the FCTC, the focus is on helping Parties identify gaps and getting help to fill them.

The IRM pilot, run by a panel of experts, aims to work out the exact process and terms of reference for a permanent IRM.

This should then be approved at the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties, slated for November 2020.

In 2019, FCA worked to support the IRM pilot by running a survey of its members who operate in the twelve countries undergoing the IRM pilot process. The survey gathered information on funding, policy coordination, enforcement, industry interference, and the role of civil society in each country.

The next phases of the pilot will be run in 2020 and FCA looks forward to continuing its engagement in this process.

In related work, outside the FCTC arena, FCA also worked to funnel data through the United Nations' Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) process for the Sustainable Development Goals. More data is a key part of improving policy and building the case for increased investments in tobacco control.

VNRs create the foundation for regular SDG review by the High-level Political Forum (HPLF) meeting under the auspices of United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). For the FCTC, it's crucial that political leaders pay attention to Target 3.a of the SDGs: to "strengthen the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate."

In 2019, FCA pushed for progress on Target 3.a to be included in the VNRs of the 51 countries who volunteered to report back to the HPLF.

FCA prepared background documents and speaking points for its regional coordinators to use when discussing with national tobacco control focal points. Amongst other countries, Chad, Iceland, Rwanda, Timor-Leste and Palau have mentioned Target 3.a and/or FCTC in their report.

SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

FCTC implementation is being held back by lack of money. Research commissioned by FCA for COP8 showed that it would take about \$27.4 billion US over five years for minimal acceptable implementation of key FCTC measures. That's tiny in comparison to the annual economic cost of smoking-attributable diseases, which totals \$1.4 trillion per year. Despite this, just 0.16 per cent of Development Assistance for Health went to tobacco control in 2018.

Part of the problem has been assessing and communicating the costs of FCTC implementation to country-level decision-makers, international funding agencies, and donors.

This holds back countries' efforts to make the case for increased funding for the implementation of highly cost effective investment in tobacco control: every dollar invested in key demand-reducing tobacco control policies in 2018 would yield a return of US\$ 7.43 by 2030.

In order to examine tobacco control's funding concerns and to promote increased funding flows towards this critical work, FCA co-organised a meeting on sustainable funding with Cancer Research UK (CRUK).

This meeting, hosted by CRUK in March 2019, brought together a broad coalition of civil society actors, development and development finance experts, and academics.

As a result of this meeting, FCA produced a comprehensive sustainable funding campaign strategy, supported by this coalition.

Campaign outcomes from 2019 included advocacy mini briefs, a resource database, and a rapid scoping exercise to determine the priorities for key development agencies.

With the European Union (EU) development policy framework under review, discussions are ongoing to determine how development funding can support efforts to prevent and combat the growing noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) epidemic in LMICs. As part of these discussions, FCA is engaging with EU level policymakers, through the Smoke Free Partnership, to underscore the importance of increased investments in tobacco control.

BUDGET ADVOCACY

Despite the relatively low cost of implementing population-level tobacco control interventions and the vast health benefits and economic savings they create downstream when implemented correctly, tobacco control in many LMICs remain significantly underfunded. Many countries fail to integrate tobacco control in their national development plan, particularly low and middle income countries as it is not considered a spending priority. Aside from the lack of prioritization and funding of tobacco control programmes in national budgets, a critical challenge lies in the lack of capacity within the tobacco control community to carry out advocacy to mobilize resources required to run effective, FCTC-compliant tobacco control programmes as part of their country's national budgeting processes.

Though several studies have shown a link on the impact of tobacco taxation on consumption and health, many tobacco control stakeholders shy away from this topic in fear of its complexity.

In 2019, after devoting some time to understanding this issue, FCA launched a budget advocacy pilot project in Senegal and Uganda. The pilot project was designed to help civil society actors understand how decisions about spending on health issues are made and to carry out campaigns aimed at increasing budget allocations for tobacco control plans and programmes.

To that end, FCA partnered with La Ligue Sénégalaise contre le Tabac in Senegal and the Uganda National Health Users'/Consumers' Organization in Uganda. The two organisations formed a coalition with various other organisations with fiscal, budget and academic expertise, capable of conducting effective advocacy for public investments in tobacco control.

Many countries in the AFRO region depend on philanthropic funding for tobacco control; this is problematic because the stopping of funding influx has a direct consequence of stifling the implementation of FCTC measures in the region.

In order to address this capacity challenge and financing gap, the FCA will carry out a two-tier budget advocacy project pilot in Senegal and Uganda.

In the first phase, civil society actors will be provided with training materials such as a toolkit to explain budget advocacy, how it can be used to influence spending; how they can develop and carry out an effective budget advocacy strategy.

In the second phase, the selected civil society actors will develop clear budget advocacy strategies and implement campaigns to influence resource allocation.

On February 2020, a multi-day budget advocacy training workshop took place in Senegal in collaboration with Cancer Research UK (CRUK) and American Cancer Society (ACS) in order for national partners in Senegal and Uganda to initiate their advocacy projects.



Budget advocacy training workshop participants

Harnessing Tobacco Taxation

Thanks to generous funding support from the Norway Cancer Society (NCS), FCA has been working together with civil society organisations (CSOs) across the AFRO region in Chad, Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda and Senegal. The objectives of these partnerships are to promote tobacco taxation as a domestic revenue generation stream for the government to reduce tobacco use and finance health initiatives; key drivers to achieve rapid progress towards the SDGs. The achievements of two of the CSOs FCA partnered with in Chad and Nigeria are highlighted below.

Chad

FCA collaborated with the Association pour la Défense des Droits des Consommateurs (ADC) in Chad to advocate for the use of tobacco taxation as a means to finance health initiatives. The taxes raised would be transferred to the Ministry of Health (MoH) with 30 percent allocated to tobacco control, as stipulated in Chad's 2019 Finance Law.

Although the motion was adopted by Parliament, the 2019 Finance Law omitted the MoH transfer and instead, only included a tobacco levy. While initially a major legislative obstacle for the MoH and national tobacco control programme, ADC facilitated a compromise between the Ministry of Finance and the MoH.

ADC actively participated in budget discussions and successfully negotiated for tobacco taxes to be earmarked for Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

As a result of their partnership with FCA, ADC's advocacy efforts contributed to a MoH policy change whereby 30 percent of tobacco specific tax is transferred to the National Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Control Program. ADC also countered efforts by the tobacco industry to reduce the tobacco specific tax from 100F to 50F XAF. In addition, ADC successfully advocated for an increase in excise duties from 25 percent to 30 percent, starting as of January 1, 2020.

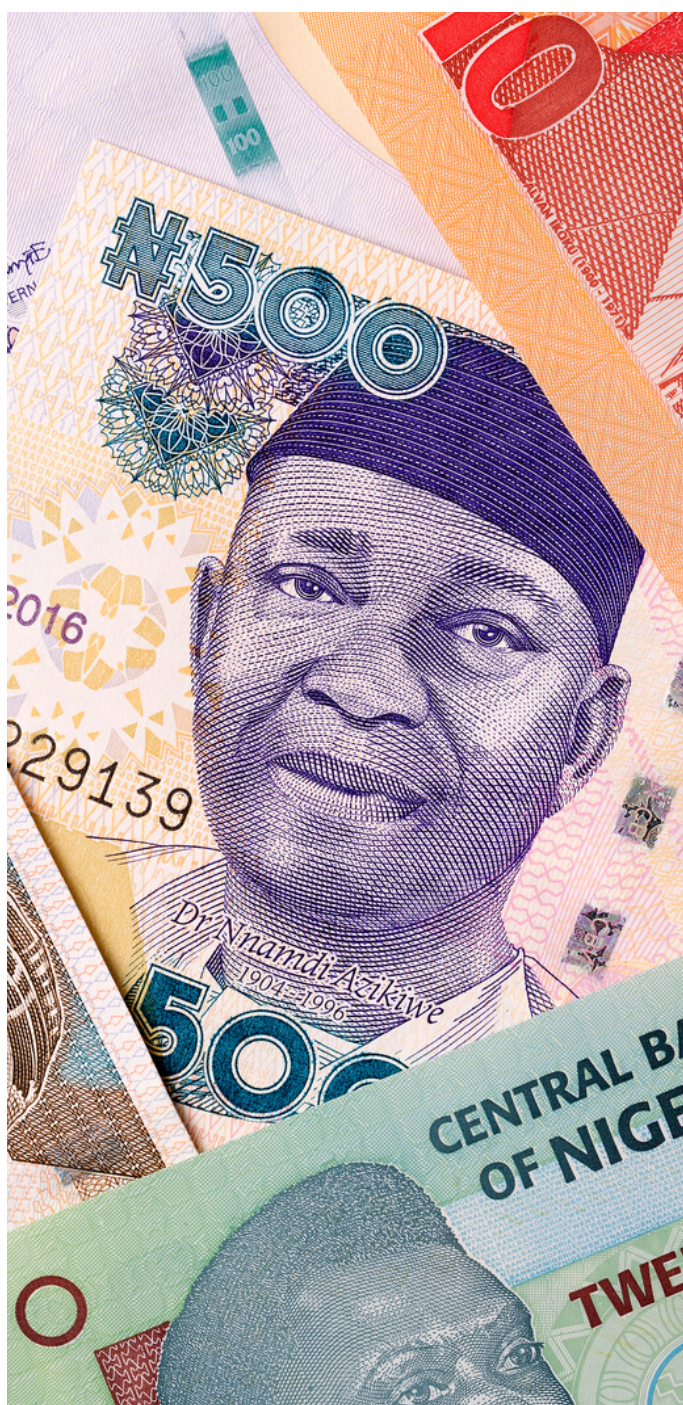
ADC's achievements were further solidified when the President of the Republic of Chad announced a 2020 Finance Law that outlined a 100F XAF tobacco tax on each cigarette pack sold and clearly indicated that the MoH is to receive earmarked tobacco taxes as part of UHC funding measures.

Nigeria

FCA has partnered with the Nigeria Tobacco Control Alliance (NTCA) since 2018 to elevate tobacco taxation as a tool to finance SDG progress. NTCA laid the groundwork by developing advocacy materials and a strategic plan that were informed by an outreach survey to vital stakeholders across Nigeria.

NTCA also facilitated a multi-stakeholder workshop with key government officials. This event was considered a cornerstone for breakthrough achievements in 2019: The establishment of a National Tobacco Control Fund, as recommended by the Tobacco Control Act, and a licensing fee to be paid into the fund.

Following a number of advocacy activities carried out by NTCA, the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs agreed to join the National Tobacco Control Committee. This is exciting news for elevating tobacco control in future discussions and partnerships with government officials working on national development plans and programs.



Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products - The Way Forward

Large, repeated increases in taxes on tobacco products are the single most effective way to drive down tobacco consumption and the death and disease it causes. The tobacco industry itself has a history of organizing and tolerating illicit trade of its products in an effort to avoid taxation and maximize profits. The FCTC has reacted to these undermining tactics by developing a Protocol (akin to a sub treaty) aimed at eliminating these practices.

Negotiations for the Illicit Trade Protocol (ITP for short) began in 2008 with the ambitious goal of developing a comprehensive system of international cooperation to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products. The completed Protocol was adopted by the FCTC Conference of the Parties in 2012, after which it was opened for signature (the first stage of approval by individual countries) and then ratification.

In 2018, it hit the threshold of 40 Parties that triggered the Protocol's entry into force, just in time for the first session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP1) to be held immediately after the FCTC COP session in October 2018.

As with the FCTC proper, the FCA has coordinated civil society efforts to ensure the Protocol is effective in reinforcing global tobacco control. In 2019, the FCA's ITP work had three strands.

First, we continued to warn ITP Parties (and prospective Parties) about the tobacco industry's efforts to paint itself as a victim rather than a complicit actor in the illicit tobacco trade. In order to avoid tight controls of its activities as demanded by the Protocol (such as the tracking and tracing of its products from the factory to the retailer), the tobacco industry developed its own tracking-and-tracing technology solution and began promoting it to ITP Parties through newly founded entities it controlled.

Since there are significant up-front costs involved in the creation of a national tracking and tracing system, the tobacco industry tried to gain a competitive advantage by offering its flawed solution at a heavily discounted price. Pack identifiers under industry control can be copied and leave manufacturers in the driving seat, but such systems can be tempting to governments, particularly in low-resource settings.

Second, in an effort to provide ITP Parties with a clear understanding of the options available to them when implementing the Protocol, the FCA unveiled a guidebook to provide a broad overview of the Protocol and explain track and trace technologies or methods, which Parties are asked to implement by 2023.

This step-by-step breakdown serves as a valuable tool for decision-makers to gain a good understanding of tracking and tracing, which is a core provision of the Protocol.

Third, FCA is participating in the two intergovernmental working groups set up by MOP1. One deals with the specifics of the global tracking-and-tracing regime established by the ITP. The second deals with the international cooperation and assistance needed to make the Protocol work, as well as with the issue of controls on the tobacco trade via Free Zones. As always in these processes, the FCA is coordinating with its membership and voicing the concerns of Civil Society.

Ahead of the upcoming Second session of the Meeting of the Parties, the goal is to continue to take ambitions to the next level by translating political commitments into a detailed implementation strategy. The needs of low- and middle-income Parties in particular are at the core of the FCA's work on the ITP.

Safeguarding Multisectoral Collaboration

Multilateral rule-making on health and development have historically been undermined by commercial and other vested interests, making it a necessity for civil society organisations to serve as watchdogs, sounding alarm bells when and wherever they observe undue corporate interference. As of now, unfortunately, tobacco companies – intentionally or through ignorance and /or indifference – continue to attempt to subvert human development policies to serve commercial interests.

Consequently, civil society organisations including FCA have reaffirmed the importance of FCTC Article 5.3., which states: “In setting and implementing their public health policies with respect to tobacco control, Parties shall act to protect these policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry in accordance with national law.”

As national and international decision-makers increasingly recognise the central role of tobacco control in achieving sustainable development, a handful of agencies within the UN system have not kept up with the need to strongly respond to the threat of tobacco industry interference. As it so happens, the tobacco industry has been adept at hiding its lobbying behind so called independent front groups and corporate social responsibility activities.

The UN’s own ECOSOC developed a Model Policy for its agencies on preventing tobacco industry interference.

But as a result of their very structure or other challenges, it is quite difficult for some agencies, to effectively safeguard their policymaking from interference by the tobacco industry. Until recently, this was the case for the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Recognising the need for a better multisectoral approach, framed by the guiding principles of the United Nations Model Policy, FCA has for over three years now, mobilised its partners, members, trade unions, media and governments to push the ILO to end its involvement in over a decade of tobacco industry corporate social responsibility schemes.

The ILO is a tripartite institution that gives a strong voice in its deliberations to workers (labour unions) and employers (including the tobacco industry).

Strengthening FCA’s approach, a decision to protect public health policies from the vested interest of the tobacco industry (Decision 18) of the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the FCTC encouraged the involvement of FCTC Parties, Secretariat and Conference of the Parties observers in the ILO decision making process.

In 2019, the Governing Body of the ILO finally endorsed its new integrated strategy for the tobacco sector, which effectively cuts financial ties with tobacco companies and front groups. The ILO’s decision enhanced its ability to independently advance multilateral negotiations in a manner that will allow for the opportunity to meaningfully address the root causes of the specific issue of child labour in the tobacco sector.

FCA stands ready to continue to work with governments, workers’ groups, the ILO and other United Nations agencies to ensure fair and equitable development around the world, free from the heavy hand of the commercial interests of the tobacco industry.

Year at a Glance

April

FCA attended a number of high level meetings: the Third Financing for Development Forum, the Multi-stakeholder hearing in preparation for the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on UHC and the Non-state Actor Consultation on the Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being. At these meetings, FCA advocated for sustainable public health financing through increased tobacco taxation and scaling up FCTC implementation to decrease tobacco use.

May

On World No Tobacco Day, FCA released a joint statement with The Union, urging governments to “break the deadly cycle of tobacco use and lung disease” by fully implementing the FCTC and integrating tobacco control into broader health systems.

FCA attended the 72nd World Health Assembly and the WHO Civil Society Working Group on the third High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on NCDs, to advocate for scaling-up FCTC implementation, discuss priorities with key partners and help plan the next two years of NCDs and tobacco control work.

FCA attended the Informal Meeting of Experts to Support Implementation of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC to discuss strategies to counter tobacco industry interference at the international and national levels.

FCA led a number of sessions during the “Waterpipe smoking control in the light of WHO FCTC” international conference; including an overview of the global progress in the implementation of the FCTC and Global Strategy to Accelerate Tobacco Control, a discussion of waterpipe use as a challenge in the implementation of smoke-free policies, electronic nicotine delivery systems and the importance of their existence in national legislations, the role of civil society in waterpipe smoking control and individual country action plans for controlling waterpipe tobacco use.

FCA facilitated a tobacco industry monitoring training session organized by the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University.

June

FCA hosted a webinar discussion to mark the publication (by York University's Global Strategy Lab) of the first ever quantitative evaluation of the global impact of the FCTC in the British Medical Journal. FCA attended the Women Deliver Conference to contribute to discussions on getting results for gender equality and the health rights of girls and women; and share its commitment to UHC including NCDs care.

FCA participated in a Regional Workshop for French-speaking Africa on NCDs organised by NCD Alliance and discussed promoting greater coordination of civil society organisations working on NCDs control and prevention in Africa.

July

On the sidelines of the African Union summit, FCA discussed strategies to fight NCDs and provided technical assistance to the High-level Health Ministers Conference; including the African First Ladies Joint Communiqué calling for support of “high impact initiatives in the fight against cancer.”

FCA attended a workshop on “Simulating tobacco tax increases and measuring illicit trade of tobacco products in Latin America and the Caribbean” to connect with major players working on the state of implementation of the illicit trade protocol and learn about the latest research on taxation policy and price elasticity.

FCA contributed to the Regional consultation on novel tobacco products initiated by WHO Member States in the Eastern Mediterranean Region to give further guidance on how to deal with new tobacco products.

October

FCA briefed high-level officials of the Mexican government on FCTC compliance in Mexico City and Cuernavaca City, during a series of meetings organised by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), The Union and Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The meetings aimed to push for stronger tobacco control laws.

FCA co-facilitated an interactive workshop titled: “Elevating Tobacco Control on national and regional agendas in the Pacific Islands,” a day before the Oceania Tobacco Control Conference.

November

FCA contributed a section on “FCTC Implementation in the African Region” to Cancer Control in Africa: paving the way for Universal Health Coverage – a publication developed by the Union for International Cancer Control, the African Organisation for Research and Training and the International Cancer Control Partnership.

FCA participated in PAHO’s expert meeting to discuss and support the development of an indicator for monitoring compliance to FCTC Article 5.3 regulations.

December

FCA attended a Healthy Latin America Coalition or CLAS (for its abbreviation in Spanish) – the regional NCD coalition to increase awareness of new tobacco control developments among NCDs stakeholders.

Members in Action

Burkina Faso

Afrique contre le tabac successfully advocated at the highest levels of government for an increase in excise duty on tobacco products from 40 to 50 percent.

Uruguay

As part of a long-running effort by civil society to help enact and implement plain packaging regulation, Centro de investigación para la epidemia del tabaquismo (Ciet Uruguay), Sociedad Uruguaya de Tabacología (SUT) and FCA Regional Coordinator Dr Eduardo Bianco took part in discussions with the Parliament's Health Commission to shore up support for the plain packaging law. Uruguay is the first country in America to implement plain packaging.

Israel

Smoke-Free Israel successfully fought for the adoption of plain packaging on all tobacco and nicotine products starting in 2020.

Jordan, Iran and Egypt

Board member Mawya M Al Zawawi, Tobacco Prevention and Control Research Center and Cairo Association against Smoking, Tuberculosis and Lung diseases- Egypt authored the Global Tobacco Industry Interference Index country reports for Jordan, Iran and Egypt, respectively.

Cambodia

The Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA) and WHO in the Western Pacific organised the 7th Smoke-free Regional Meeting with more than 200 participants from the Asia Pacific region. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Tourism, Cambodia, which also actively supported and strengthened the implementation of Article 8 of the WHO FCTC by recognizing hotels and restaurants that are compliant with its smoke-free law.

Palau, Samoa and Fiji

Coalition for a Tobacco Free Palau and Samoa Cancer Society administered the Pacific Tobacco Industry Interference Index in Palau and Samoa respectively. The Index is a tool for monitoring the types and extent of tobacco industry interference and assessing the extent to which governments are prepared to prevent it.

Samoa Cancer Society participated in consultations for the Samoa National Tobacco Control Policy Plan of Action 2019-2023 as a member of the National Tobacco Control Committee.

Fiji Cancer Society became a member of FCA and attended the Oceania Tobacco Control Conference.

By the Numbers

700

FCA is a hub for tobacco control policy discussions. More than 700 advocates are subscribed to over 20 mailing lists.

In 2019, members exchanged more than a 1000 messages to discuss and coordinate advocacy positions and strategies.

270

FCA is made up of a membership body of over 270 non-government organisations who work through national and regional level advocacy to ensure that FCA provides global leadership on FCTC implementation.

100

FCA has a footprint in over 100 countries around the world where its member network collaborates to face and overcome the obstacles of tobacco control work.

20

FCA provided technical assistance to governments, international organisations and other global health actors at more than 20 events (high level meetings, multisectoral consultations, regional and national gatherings).

FCA published more than 20 tobacco control advocacy resources including policy briefings, a guidebook, infographics, opinion pieces, open letters and communications toolkits.

FCA's work is overseen by an elected and geographically representative Board of Directors.



FCA Board members in 2020, from left to right:

Kylie Lindorff, At-Large and Chair
Nonguebzanga Maxime Compaoré, European Region
Ongerung Kambes Kesolei, Western Pacific Region
Bontle Mbongwe, At-Large and Secretary
Issah Ali, Africa Region
Deborah Anne Chen, Americas Region and Vice Chair
Mawya Al Zahawi, Eastern Mediterranean Region
Piyush Gupta, South-East Asia Region
Maria Carmona, At-Large and Treasurer

A small core team and secretariat is based in Ottawa, Canada. Regional coordinators are located in Africa, Europe, the Americas, the Western Pacific and ASEAN region, the Pacific Islands and the Eastern Mediterranean region.

Francis Thompson

Executive Director, Strategy and Policy

Leslie Rae Ferat

Managing Director

Kelly Jean Frisby

Program Officer

Andrea Mackasey

Program Assistant

Ryan Forrest

Policy and Research Advisor

Mischa Terzyk

ITP Policy and Advocacy Coordinator

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Daouda Elhadj Adam

Regional Coordinator, Africa

Dr. Eduardo Bianco

Regional Coordinator, Americas

Dr. Hani Al Gouhmani

Regional Coordinator, Eastern
Mediterranean

Anca Toma Friedlaender

Regional Coordinator, Europe

Dr. Domilyn Villarreiz

Regional Coordinator, Western Pacific-Asia

Annabel Lyman

Regional Coordinator, Pacific Island
Countries



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Action on Smoking & Health USA
Bloomberg Philanthropies
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
Cancer Council Australia
Cancer Research UK
New Venture Fund
Norwegian Cancer Society
Smoke Free Partnership
Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance
Vital Strategies

2019 FINANCES



FCA's accounts are audited annually by the independent Swiss accounting firm, BDO Ltd, which expressed an unqualified or "clean" opinion of FCA's 2018 financial statements.

The audited financial statements for 2019 will be available in mid-2020.

BDO Ltd has declared itself free of all links to the tobacco industry.

Copies of audited financial statements are available upon written request to the FCA Secretariat (fca@fctc.org).

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