An analysis of publicly available information on how governments protect policies from tobacco industry interference.

**Indicators**

1. Industry Participation in Policy Development
2. Corporate Social Responsibility Activities
3. Benefits to the Tobacco Industry
4. Unnecessary interactions with the tobacco industry
5. Lack of transparency, leading to industry interference
6. Avoiding conflict of interest to protect public health policy
7. Protection of governments from tobacco industry interference
Countries & Ranking

- Nigeria (07)
- Gabon (03)
- Tanzania (13)
- Ethiopia (04)
- Kenya (02)
- Uganda (01)
- Senegal (08)
- Côte d'Ivoire (05)
- Burkina Faso (10)
- Ghana (09)
- Mozambique (11)
- Botswana (05)
- South Africa (11)
Major findings

1. There was improvement and deterioration in country performances.
2. Increased CSR enabled interaction with governments.
3. Policy development was influenced.
4. Interactions with the tobacco industry were not transparent.
5. The industry received privileges from governments.
6. Countries continued to maintain unnecessary interactions with the industry.
7. Governments do not adequately address conflicts of interest.
8. Countries need adequate measures to prevent industry interference.
Industry Participation in Policy Development

- **Ethiopia**: The industry participated in the drafting process of the Tobacco Control Proclamation.

- **Nigeria**: The Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment received an industry proposal on the need for a Policy on Conventional Tobacco and Non-Combusted Alternatives to Cigarette Smoking.

- **Burkina-Faso**: The industry provided financial support to the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of Trade for the setting up of a system of authentication, track and trace, and fiscal verification of tobacco products.
Corporate Social Responsibility Activities

- **Burkina Faso:** The industry constructed a potable water facility, hailed by an authority as “a new life” to the people.

- **Gabon:** The industry sponsored the renovation of the sports facilities of the National Gendarmerie School as well as a soccer tournament.

- **Mozambique:** A 3-year MoU signed between government and industry-funded ECLT Foundation to address child labour and strengthen children’s rights.
Benefits to the Tobacco Industry

- In **Cote d’Ivoire, Nigeria** and **Senegal**, the industry benefitted from delays in tax increases or enjoyed tax breaks incentives.

- **Ghana** was reported struggling, with little success, to implement an ad valorem tax system, resulting in low prices and increased affordability of tobacco products.

- In **Uganda**, the government sought a supplementary budget of approximately 3.08 million USD to compensate disgruntled tobacco farmers who supplied leaves to two tobacco companies but were never paid.
Unnecessary interactions with the tobacco industry

- In South Africa and Ethiopia the industry collaborated with government entities on initiatives to tackle the illicit trade.

- In Kenya a team from the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) joined BAT for activities to mark World Environment Day.

- In Zambia the Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry toured a BAT plant permitting BAT to boast of US$800,000 investment to contribute towards Zambia’s economic development agenda.
Lack of transparency, leading to industry interference

- In Nigeria, most government ministries do not disclose information, citing the Official Secrets Act (which prohibits some branches of government from disclosing “unauthorized information”) as the reason for nondisclosure.

- Despite provisions in its law, there are no guidelines for the disclosure of records of interaction with the tobacco industry in Uganda. As a result of this, BAT met with the Prime Minister on the Tobacco Control Act and the regulations. Details of this meeting were not made public.
Avoiding conflict of interest

- In **Gabon**, the current Chairman of the Board of Directors of CECA-GADIS (representing the interests of the tobacco industry in Gabon) is the Political Advisor to the Head of State.

- The current Minister for Information, the current Managing Director of the New Times Corporation, and the Managing Director of Ghana Post, all state corporations, are former employees of BAT in **Ghana**.

- The current Chairman of BATNF used to be the Minister of Trade and Industry. Also the Minister for Foreign Affairs from 2014 to 2015 is currently the Chairman for International Tobacco Company in **Nigeria**
Protection of governments from tobacco industry interference

- Countries like Gabon, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Uganda have made progress in drawing up measures to guide officials in their interactions with the tobacco industry.

- Countries such as Mozambique, Senegal, Tanzania and Zambia need to step up efforts to firewall their tobacco control interventions. They have been particularly vulnerable to high levels of industry interference.

- In Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire and Kenya some protective measures have been taken, but these countries are still highly vulnerable to tobacco industry interference in public health policies.
1. Denormalise and ban tobacco-related CSR activities
2. Disclose and communicate interactions with the tobacco industry
3. Ratify the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products
4. Intensify tobacco control sensitization
5. Governments must ensure transparency in interactions with the tobacco industry
6. Governments should adopt a code of conduct for dealing with the tobacco industry
7. Governments should enforce their tobacco control laws
Thanks