



ABOUT THE MODEL POLICY FOR AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM ON PREVENTING TOBACCO INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE



**ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE
ON THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF
NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (UNIATF)**

The United Nations Secretary-General established UNIATF in 2013. UNIATF coordinates the activities of the United Nations and intergovernmental organizations in support of the response of governments to the NCD-related SDGs and ensures that tobacco control is duly addressed and prioritized in the task force mandate.

ABOUT THE SECRETARIAT OF THE WHO FCTC

The Convention Secretariat is an entity hosted by WHO. It is the global entity responsible for the implementation of the WHO FCTC and the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products. It chairs the tobacco control thematic group at UNIATF.

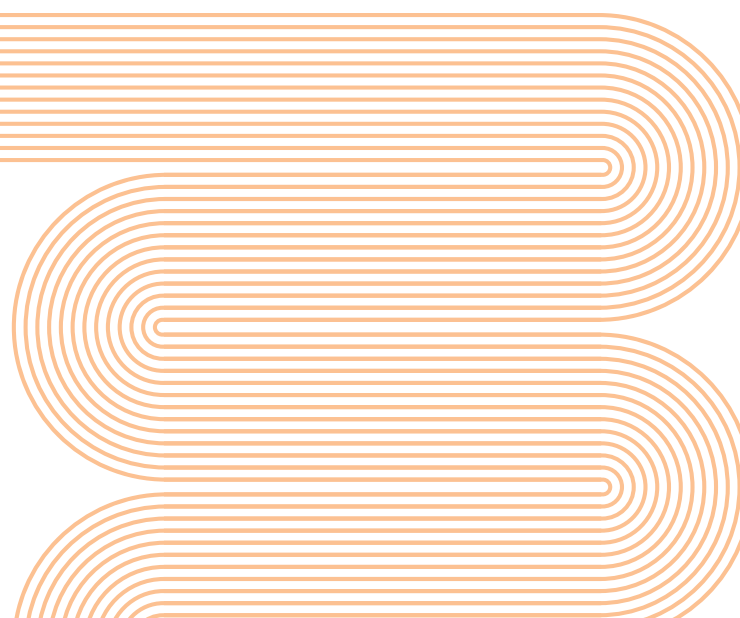


ABOUT THE MODEL POLICY FOR AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM ON PREVENTING TOBACCO INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE

There is a fundamental and irreconcilable conflict of interest between the tobacco industry and public health. Engagement with this industry is contrary to the objectives, principles and values of the United Nations System.

The Model Policy was developed by the Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (Convention Secretariat) in collaboration with the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (UNIATF).

It aims to guide United Nations System entities in developing their own policies to prevent tobacco industry interference, in line with their mandates, in order to ensure that efforts to protect public health policy concerning tobacco control from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry are comprehensive, effective and consistent across the United Nations System.



TOBACCO INDUSTRY INTERFERENCE TAKES MANY FORMS

Manoeuvring with lobbyists to influence lawmaking;

Exaggerating the economic importance of the industry while ignoring the social, environmental and health costs caused by tobacco and tobacco products;

Fabricating support through front groups that are phony “grassroots” groups that support the interests of the tobacco industry;

Attempting to discredit proven science; and

Manipulating public opinion to gain the appearance of respectability, for example by investing funds in youth programmes, nature conservation groups or disaster relief in an effort to appear to be “socially responsible”. The corporate social responsibility of the tobacco industry is an inherent contradiction since the tobacco industry’s core functions are in conflict with the goals of public health and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

July 2018
ECOSOC adopts resolution 2018/13*

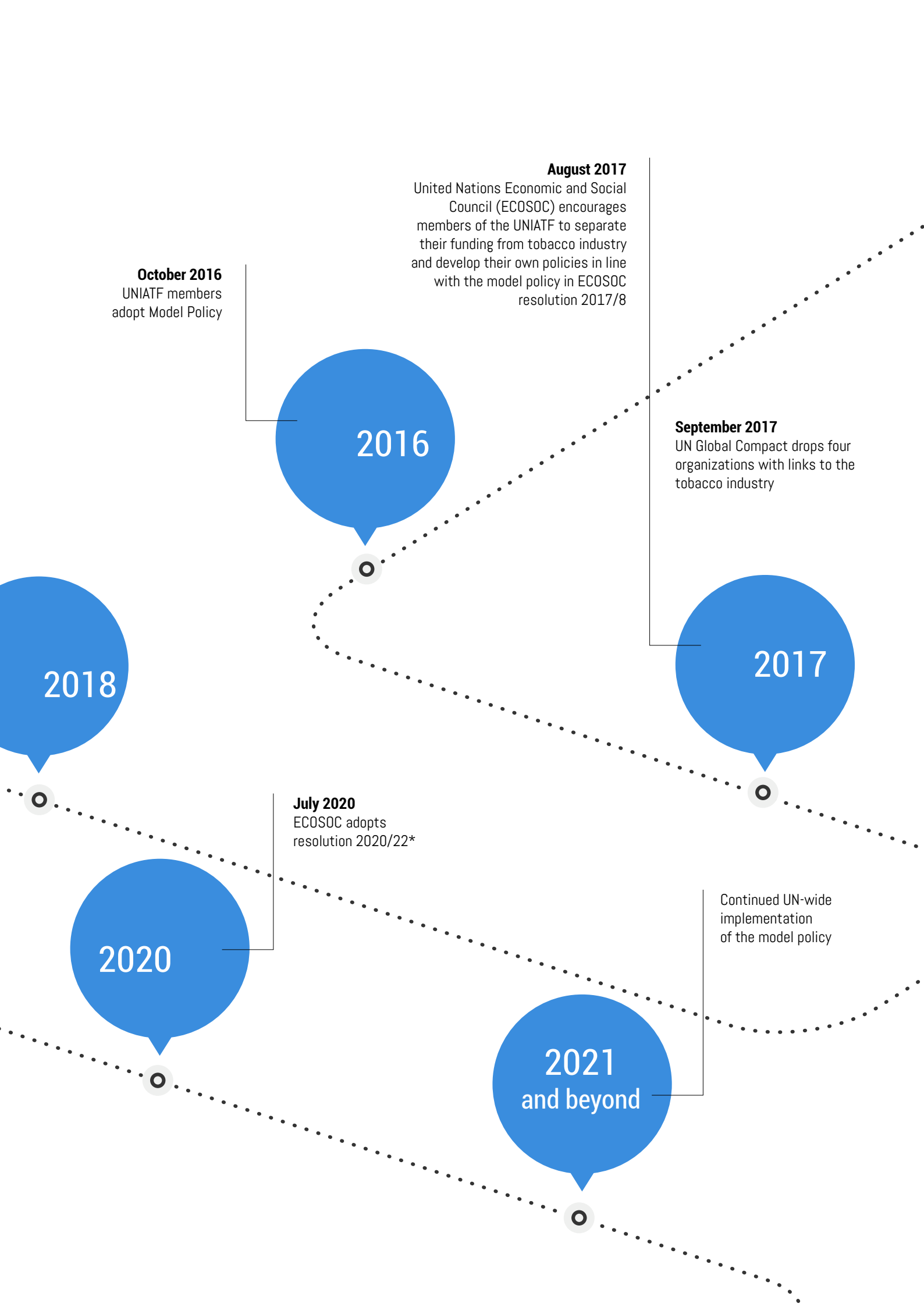
2019

June 2019
ECOSOC adopts resolution 2019/9*

October 2019
Governing Body of the International Labour Organization (ILO) decides to terminate its public and private partnership with the Eliminating Child Labor in Tobacco Growing (ECLT)

August 2019
UN Secretary General refers to the model policy in his letter to Heads of agencies highlighting the importance of not engaging with the tobacco industry

* Resolutions reemphasizing the model policy



October 2016
UNIATF members adopt Model Policy

August 2017
United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) encourages members of the UNIATF to separate their funding from tobacco industry and develop their own policies in line with the model policy in ECOSOC resolution 2017/8

September 2017
UN Global Compact drops four organizations with links to the tobacco industry

2016

2017

2018

July 2020
ECOSOC adopts resolution 2020/22*

2020

Continued UN-wide implementation of the model policy

2021
and beyond

ABOUT THE WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL (WHO FCTC)

The WHO FCTC was developed under the auspices of World Health Organization (WHO) in response to the globalization of the tobacco epidemic. It is an evidence-based, legally binding international treaty that reaffirms the right of all people to the highest standard of health. It represents a milestone for the promotion of public health and provides new legal dimensions for international health cooperation.

Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC requires that “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”.

The Conference of the Parties to the WHO FCTC adopted the *Guidelines for implementation of Article 5.3* to assist Parties in meeting their legal obligations under Article 5.3, drawing on the best available scientific evidence and the experience of Parties in addressing tobacco industry interference.

The Model Policy was developed building on Article 5.3 and its implementation guidelines and adapted for application in the United Nations System.

FIVE REASONS WHY UNITED NATIONS ENTITIES SHOULD DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT THEIR OWN POLICY

1

The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental human right. Tobacco kills 8 million people globally each year, and more than one million are non-smokers exposed to second-hand smoke, including children.

2

Tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke have devastating worldwide health, social, economic and environmental consequences.

3

There is a fundamental and irreconcilable conflict between public health and the interests of the tobacco industry.

4

The SDGs and their targets are integrated and indivisible. SDG Target 3.a calls for strengthening the implementation of the WHO FCTC.

5

The United Nations System must “Deliver as One”, ensuring a consistent and effective separation between its activities and those of the tobacco industry and those who work to further its interests in order for the United Nations to preserve its integrity, core values and reputation and to promote development.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE CONTAINED IN UNITED NATIONS ENTITIES' POLICIES

- Carry out due diligence and:
 - do not accept donations from the tobacco industry or entities related to it;
 - do not establish public–private partnerships and conduct joint activities with the tobacco industry or entities related to it, and ensure that funding from the tobacco industry or entities related to them is effectively separated;
 - do not grant contracts to those who have conflicts of interest with established tobacco control policies or whose clients include the tobacco industry;
 - do not nominate a person related to the tobacco industry, directly or indirectly, to serve as a member of a committee, an advisory or expert group, or a governing body delegation; and
 - do not invite representatives from the tobacco industry and entities related to it to become co-sponsors of events or become members of committees, advisory or expert groups, or governing board delegations.
- Do not invest, or if you already are invested, divest from tobacco industry stocks or any organization that works to further its interest. For example, the [United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund](#) restricts investment in the tobacco industry.
- Limit interactions with the tobacco industry to those strictly necessary to perform the duties of the agency. If interactions with the tobacco industry are necessary, ensure that those interactions are conducted transparently. When possible:
 - conduct those interactions in public;
 - disclose records of the meeting; and
 - characterize the meeting in a way that does not imply the existence of collaboration and/or partnership.

SOURCES

Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC

Guidelines for implementation of Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC

Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the business sector: The United Nations will not engage with business sector entities that are complicit in human right abuses, tolerate forced or compulsory labour or the use of child labour, are involved in the sale or manufacture of anti-personnel landmines or cluster bombs, or that otherwise do not meet relevant obligations or responsibilities required by the United Nations.

International Code of Conduct for Public Officials: The Code is included in 1997 United Nations General Assembly resolution calling for an avoidance of conflicts of interest between public and private interest.

Model Policy for agencies of the United Nations system on preventing tobacco industry interference

CONTACT

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WHO/CSF/2021.1

This publication was made possible with the support of the Government of Australia.