

Index for Tobacco Control Sustainability

COLOMBIA



The Union

International Union Against
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease
Health solutions for the poor

INDICATORS		Present (P)/ Absent (A)	Weighted Score	Country Score
1	Prerequisite Indicator: >4 MPOWER policies in place	P	9	0
2	National tobacco control budget (annual)	A	7	0
3	National tobacco control law	P	6	6
4	National budget allocation for tobacco control capacity building	A	6	0
5	Tobacco taxation >75% of retail sales price	A	6	0
6	Tobacco taxation increases faster than inflation plus gross domestic product growth	P	6	6
7	National tobacco control unit	P	5	5
8	Civil society tobacco control network	P	5	5
9	Civil society representation in national tobacco control advisory committees	A	5	0
10	Health promotion fund for, or including, tobacco control	A	5	0
11	National policy against tobacco industry corporate social responsibility	A	5	0
12	Tobacco-related mortality and morbidity recording system	A	5	0
13	National evaluation framework in place	A	5	0
14	Evaluation built into all major policy implementation plans	A	5	0
15	National tobacco control strategy	P	4	4
16	Tobacco control and non-communicable diseases form part of national health policy	P	4	4
17	Tobacco control forms part of national development plan	A	4	0
18	Human resource for implementation (national)	A	4	0
19	Global Tobacco Surveillance System surveys	A	4	0
20	Intergovernmental coordination mechanism	A	3	0
21	Capacity building plan for tobacco control personnel	P	3	3
22	Developmental assistance funding includes tobacco control	P	3	3
23	Code of conduct for government officials and staff	A	3	0
24	Ministry of health WHO FCTC Article 5.3 policy	A	3	0
25	WHO FCTC Article 5.3 policy across all ministries	A	3	0
26	Economic and social tobacco costs data	A	3	0
27	National focal point post	P	3	3
28	National advisory committee	A	2	0
29	Capacity building plans on research and evaluation	P	2	2
30	Mass media campaigns funded	A	1	0
31	Capacity building plan for non tobacco control specific personnel	P	1	1
Total Score			130	42

Explanation of the scores:

1. Prerequisite Indicator: >4 MPOWER policies in place: According to GTCR 2021 report, Colombia only has P and E in highest level of practice.
2. National tobacco control budget (annual): N/A
3. National tobacco control law: Law 1335
4. National budget allocation for tobacco control capacity building: N/A
5. Tobacco taxation >75% of retail sales price: N/A
6. Tobacco taxation increases faster than inflation plus gross domestic product growth: In place
7. National tobacco control unit: The national tobacco control team functions under the Ministry of Health.
8. Civil society tobacco control network: In place.
9. Civil society representation in national tobacco control advisory committees: N/A.
10. Health promotion fund for, or including, tobacco control: N/A
11. National policy against tobacco industry corporate social responsibility: N/A.
12. Tobacco-related mortality and morbidity recording system: N/A
13. National evaluation framework in place: N/A.
14. Evaluation built into all major policy implementation plans: N/A
15. National tobacco control strategy: In place.
16. Tobacco control and noncommunicable diseases (NCD) form part of national health policy: The national health policy covers tobacco control and NCD prevention.
17. Tobacco control forms part of national development plan: N/A
18. Human resource for implementation (national): N/A
19. Global Tobacco Surveillance System surveys: N/A
20. Intergovernmental coordination mechanism: N/A.
21. Capacity building plan for tobacco control personnel: In place.
22. Developmental assistance funding includes tobacco control: In place.
23. Code of conduct for government officials and staff: N/A.
24. Ministry of Health WHO FCTC Article 5.3 policy: N/A.
25. WHO FCTC Article 5.3 policy across all ministries: N/A.
26. Economic and social tobacco costs data: N/A.
27. National focal point post: A dedicated tobacco control focal point exists at both national and sub-national levels.
28. National advisory committee: N/A

29. Capacity building plans on research and evaluation: In place.
30. Mass media campaigns funded: N/A
31. Capacity building plan for non-tobacco-control-specific personnel: In place.

Main findings.

Progress in tobacco control sustainability since 2016

In recent years, Colombia has made significant progress in reducing tobacco use through the implementation of crucial policies. These policies include measures such as substantial increases in tobacco taxation, mandatory inclusion of pictorial health warnings on tobacco packaging, establishment of smoke-free environments, and a complete prohibition on tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship.

Colombia has taken further steps towards tobacco control under the FCTC 2030 project. The country has introduced monitoring strategies to ensure the effective implementation of tobacco control policies. This has been achieved through the establishment and execution of a high-level intersectoral coordinating mechanism dedicated to tobacco control.

Additionally, Colombia has intensified its efforts to support tobacco users in their journey to quit smoking. The country has enhanced its infrastructure to provide necessary assistance and resources to individuals seeking to overcome tobacco addiction. Colombia has also developed new evidence-based documents to guide the formulation of policies grounded in scientific research.

Overall, these initiatives and measures have contributed to the decline in tobacco use prevalence in Colombia.

Changes in scores from the 2016 survey:

With a current score of 42 out of 130, Colombia has shown significant improvements compared to its score of 29 out of 130 in 2016. The presence of the tobacco taxation increases beyond the “inflation plus GDP growth” measure has had a significant impact, adding six points to the current score. The establishment of a national tobacco control unit has contributed an additional five points.

Another notable change since 2016 has been the introduction of capacity building plans for tobacco control personnel, which added three points to the score. The inclusion of developmental assistance funding for tobacco control contributed another three points to the score. The implementation of capacity building plans for research and evaluation has further enhanced the country’s efforts in tobacco control. And the presence of a capacity building plan for personnel not specific to tobacco control is a new factor that added one more point to the score. These policy changes and initiatives have significantly improved Colombia’s tobacco control efforts, leading to a higher score in the assessment.

Remaining gaps in tobacco control sustainability:

Colombia has made significant strides in tobacco control; however, key challenges remain to be addressed. One such

area is the health warnings policy. It is imperative to urgently increase the size of health warnings to enhance their impact. Additionally, Colombia should consider implementing plain packaging and prohibiting the sale of all flavored tobacco products.

Tobacco taxation remains another critical aspect that requires improvement, as highlighted in the FCTC 2030 evaluation report. The country should prioritize enhancing tobacco taxation measures to effectively deter tobacco consumption.

Colombia still needs to ratify the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade. The protocol must be presented before the Colombian Congress for ratification, as it plays a crucial role in combating the illicit trade of tobacco products.