

Index for Tobacco Control Sustainability

URUGUAY

INDICATORS		Present (P)/ Absent (A)	Weighted Score	Country Score
1	Prerequisite Indicator: >4 MPOWER policies in place	P	9	9
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	A	6	0
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	P	5	5
10	Health promotion fund for, or including, tobacco control	P	5	5
11	National policy against tobacco industry corporate social responsibility	P	5	5
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	P	5	5
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	P	4	4
18	Human resource for implementation (national)	P	4	4
19	Global Tobacco Surveillance System surveys	P	4	4
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	A	3	0
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	P	2	2
29	Capacity building plans on research and evaluation	A	2	0
30	Mass media campaigns funded	A	1	0
31	Capacity building plan for non tobacco control specific personnel	A	1	0
Total Score			130	73

Explanation of the scores:

1. Pre-requisite Indicator: >4 MPOWER policies in place: According to the GTCR 2021 report, Uruguay has MPWE at the highest level of practice.
2. National tobacco control budget (annual): N/A
3. National tobacco control law: Law 18256.
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: N/A.
7. National tobacco control unit: The National Tobacco Control team is functional under the MoH.
8. Civil society tobacco control network: In place.
9. Civil society representation in national tobacco control advisory committees: In place.
10. Health promotion fund for, or including, tobacco control: In place.
11. National policy against tobacco industry corporate social responsibility: In place.
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: In place.
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: In place.
18. Human resource for implementation (national): In place
19. Global Tobacco Surveillance System surveys: In place.
20. Intergovernmental coordination mechanism: N/A.
21. Capacity building plan for tobacco control personnel: In place.
22. Developmental assistance funding includes tobacco control: N/A.
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: There is a dedicated tobacco control focal point at the national level.
28. National advisory committee: In place.
29. Capacity building plans on research and evaluation: N/A.
30. Mass media campaigns funded: N/A
31. Capacity building plan for non-tobacco-control-specific personnel: N/A

Main findings

Progress in tobacco control sustainability since 2016

In recent years, Uruguay has undergone significant changes that have had a notable impact on the tobacco control agenda. The primary legislation governing tobacco control in Uruguay is Law No. 18.256. This legislation effectively prohibits all forms of tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship.

One particularly noteworthy achievement occurred in 2019 when Uruguay became the first country in the region to implement a plain packaging policy for tobacco products. This policy mandated a uniform presentation for all tobacco brands. Uruguay successfully defended its position in a six-year legal battle against the tobacco industry before the

International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes in 2016.

Remaining gaps in tobacco control sustainability

It is important to acknowledge that there have been recent changes in the government's stance on plain packaging. The government has admitted to modifying its policy in response to requests from the tobacco industry. Additionally, the government has published a decree that reverses a previous ban on the sale of heated tobacco products.

These developments raise concerns regarding the government's commitment to tobacco control measures and its willingness to prioritize public health over industry interests. It is crucial for policymakers and stakeholders to carefully consider the potential consequences of these policy changes and ensure that the progress made in tobacco control in Uruguay is not compromised.