



# 2nd Africa Conference on Tobacco Control and Development (ACTD)

**Breaking Barriers, Building Futures:**  
Advancing the Tobacco Control  
Ecosystem in Africa

November 13 -14, 2024  
Labadi Beach Hotel, Accra, Ghana



## COMMUNIQUE

[14 November 2024]



# PREAMBLE

The 2nd Africa Conference on Tobacco Control and Development convened in Accra, Ghana, on 13-14 November 2024, bringing together renowned experts, policymakers, advocates, and stakeholders from across the continent and beyond. With the overarching theme, "Breaking Barriers, Building Futures," the conference aimed to enhance the tobacco control ecosystem in Africa, addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by tobacco use and its impact on public health, the environment, and socio-economic development.

The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) convened the conference in partnership with the Centre for Tobacco Control in Africa (CTCA) and Youth in Action. The Government of the Republic of Ghana hosted the conference through the Ministry of Health of Ghana.

Key discussions included the tobacco control ecosystem, innovative approaches to smoking cessation, the role of youth and gender in tobacco control efforts, environmental considerations, the emergence of new tobacco products, the centrality of tobacco control funding and sustainability, as we look at the future of tobacco control in Africa. Participants shared valuable insights through plenary sessions, parallel tracks, and poster presentations, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange.

We **ACKNOWLEDGE** the significant burden of tobacco-related diseases, which disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, including women, youth, and individuals living with HIV. We note the challenges posed by emerging tobacco products and the tobacco industry's aggressive marketing strategies that undermine public health initiatives.

We **RECOGNIZE** the role of young advocates not just as participants, but as essential leaders within the tobacco control ecosystem in Africa.

Furthermore, we **RECOGNIZE** the critical role of regional collaboration and knowledge sharing in advancing tobacco control efforts. We applaud the commitment of governments, civil society, and international organizations to implement the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) and to enhance policy frameworks that prioritize public health over corporate interests.

We **AFFIRM** our dedication to building a robust tobacco control ecosystem that fosters sustainable health outcomes, economic development, and environmental stewardship. This conference serves as a platform for dialogue, innovation, and action among stakeholders committed to creating a tobacco-free future for Africa.



# RESOLUTIONS

In light of the discussions and deliberations, we, conference participants, unanimously adopted the following resolutions:



**URGE** governments and relevant stakeholders to strengthen and enforce tobacco control policies in alignment with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). With the emerging products being channeled in the market by the industry, we call on Governments to amend laws and policies to reflect the ban on these products.

.....



**CALL** for the establishment and scaling of accessible smoking cessation programs across Africa, particularly targeting high-risk populations.

.....



**CALL** for increased intentional engagement of young people in tobacco control initiatives across the continent.

.....



**ADVOCATE** for allocating dedicated resources for tobacco control initiatives from both government and international donors – by exploring innovative financing mechanisms, such as taxes on tobacco products, to support public health initiatives. Sustainability of these initiatives is critical, and African Governments need to own the financing of their Tobacco Control initiatives, if FCTC targets are to be achieved.

.....



Acknowledging the critical role of youth and gender in tobacco control, **EMPHASIZE** the need to develop targeted interventions that address the unique challenges faced by women and young people in tobacco use and cessation.

.....





**CALL FOR** an increased investment in research to understand the local dynamics of tobacco use, especially the impact of emerging products – conducting research to ensure standardized data collection methods to inform effective policy and programmatic responses.

.....



**EMPHASIZE** the critical role of Tobacco Industry and Monitoring and the need to be proactive in countering industry.

.....



**URGE** stakeholders to integrate environmental health considerations into tobacco control strategies, particularly through initiatives that promote alternative livelihoods for tobacco farmers.

.....



**STRESS** the importance of fostering multi-sectoral collaborations and partnerships among governments, NGOs, academia, and the private sector to enhance the effectiveness of tobacco control efforts across the continent.

.....



**ESTABLISH** robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the impact of tobacco control initiatives and ensure accountability among stakeholders for sustained progress.

.....



**INSTITUTE** innovative capacity development interventions to sustain tobacco control.

.....



# CONCLUSION

**The 2nd Africa Conference on Tobacco Control and Development** concluded with a renewed commitment from all participants to advance the tobacco control agenda in Africa. By breaking barriers and building sustainable futures, stakeholders can collectively work towards reducing tobacco use and its associated health risks, ultimately improving the quality of life for millions across the continent.

We express our contentment with the **2nd Africa Conference on Tobacco Control and Development**, recognizing its significant role in providing an invaluable platform for comprehensive and inclusive discussions about capacity building for tobacco control policymaking in Africa. The Conference facilitated candid conversations involving key stakeholders, including policymakers, CSOs, academia and think tanks, and private sector representatives, allowing us to explore various challenges and opportunities.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the organizers (African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), Centre for

Tobacco Control in Africa (CTCA), Youth in Action and Ministry of Health of the Republic of Ghana, for their unwavering support in facilitating this Conference. We are committed to advancing these resolutions and call upon African governments, the African Union Commission, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and all stakeholders to implement the proposed actions, ensuring their alignment with national, regional, and continental development agendas.

The conference acknowledges the ongoing challenges in tobacco control but affirms that significant strides can be made through collaborative efforts, innovative approaches, and a strong commitment to health equity. Together, we can create a healthier, tobacco-free future for Africa.

**Presented in Accra, Ghana, this 14 November 2024**



-  **The Africa Capacity Building Foundation**
-  **ACBF\_Official**
-  **theacbf**
-  **The ACBF**
-  **root@abf-pact.org**
-  **<http://www.acbf-pact.org>**
-  **[ctc-africa.org](http://ctc-africa.org)**
-  **[actd.africa](http://actd.africa)**

