

**1ST AFRICA  
CONFERENCE ON  
TOBACCO CONTROL  
AND DEVELOPMENT**



**A TOBACCO FREE  
AFRICA**  
AN URGENT CALL FOR  
JOINT ACTION

**COMMUNIQUE OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> AFRICA CONFERENCE ON TOBACCO CONTROL  
AND DEVELOPMENT HELD VIRTUALLY, OCTOBER 26–28, 2021**

**CONFERENCE THEME: “A TOBACCO FREE AFRICA: AN URGENT CALL FOR  
JOINT ACTION”**

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A three-days international conference on Tobacco Control and Development was convened jointly by the Center for Tobacco Control in Africa (CTCA) and The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF). Five Hundred and Sixty (560) stakeholders registered for the Conference, which was held virtual. The regional partners included the World Health Organization (WHO AFRO), Research Unit on the Economics of Excisable Products (REEP), Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK), African Tobacco Control Alliance (ATCA), Africa Centre for Tobacco Industry Monitoring and Policy Research (ATIM) and the Tax Justice Network-Africa (TJN-A).

The Conference:

1. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to organizations that have devoted resources to support tobacco control efforts in Africa including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
2. **NOTES** that Emerging tobacco products are creating new challenges for tobacco control. There is need therefore for robust laws to respond to these challenges.

3. Further **NOTES** that Tobacco control implementation requires flexibility to align to governments and governance changing dynamics. The paucity of data on the continent has adversely impacted promulgation of effective policies on tobacco control in many African countries.
4. **OBSERVES** that Africa has a large youth population with an increasing usage of tobacco within this population segment. The power of the youth must therefore be harnessed as advocacy champions in tobacco control.
5. Further **OBSERVES** that whereas rigorous tobacco tax policies reduce tobacco usage, Africa lags behind in introduction and enforcement of tobacco tax policies.
6. **ENCOURAGES** national and regional level coordination in tobacco control efforts. Multisectoral comprehensive support through National Coordination Committees are also critical.
7. **RECOGNIZES** Capacity building as necessary condition in tobacco control in various fields chief among them: capacity in taxation, enforcement, compliance, advocacy, novel tobacco products, research and data standardization.
8. **CONCLUDES** by expressing appreciation to both the Center for Tobacco Control in Africa and The African Capacity Building Foundation for organizing this important conference at the most opportune time when tobacco use is compounding the COVID-19 crisis on the African Continent.

## **THEREFORE, CALL TO ACTION:**

To address the debilitating impact of tobacco use on the health of Africans and the continent's economies, the 1<sup>st</sup> Africa Conference on Tobacco Control and Development:

- a) **URGES** African countries and Partners to increase investment in local research to support tobacco control initiatives and enhance advocacy and partnership mandates with strong evidence-based research. Local research will also result in irrefutable messaging against the tobacco industry and promote understanding of local setting and local political setting.
- b) Further **URGES** Africa to present a united voice in the fight against tobacco usage through harmonisation of policies across the continent and leverage partnerships and collaboration and best practices to improve implementation of tobacco control across the continent.
- c) **ENCOURAGES** countries to introduce policies that will serve as disincentive for tobacco use, such as increase taxation on tobacco products; Make cigarettes unaffordable to encourage quitting.
9. Further **ENCOURAGES** the tobacco control community to change the narration in addressing tobacco industry, by placing a focus on possible solutions and not the problem. In this regard, there is need to address the supply side of tobacco control including the challenges faced in alternative livelihoods.
- d) **CALLS** for investment in high qualified workforce, especially to strengthen Public Health capacity to drive tobacco control implementation. Similarly,

reinforce capacity for state entities with locally relevant information to influence policy and decisions and provide effective monitoring of tobacco products and production.

- e) **Further CALLS** on the tobacco control community to be vigilant on emerging products and adopt innovative policies and strategies to counter the ever-changing industry tactics.
- f) **ENSURE** inclusiveness by engaging all concerned sectors especially the youth in tobacco control efforts.
- g) Further **ENCOURAGE** continuous learning and adaptation to change as well as experiences sharing and continuous networking.
- h) **SUSTAIN** and deepen collaboration among tobacco control actors through establishment of complementary partnerships to leverage resources and expertise.

**Done in Kampala, 28 October 2021**

