

Thank you Mister Chair. I speak on behalf of Corporate Accountability and its hundreds of thousands of members, volunteers, and activists. Corporate Accountability is a member of the Global Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power and of the Treaty Alliance.

To ensure the legitimacy and integrity of this treaty process and of its outcomes, it is of critical importance that States replicate in the general obligations of the Treaty the equivalent of Article 5.3 of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (or FCTC), and its guidelines for implementation.

According to implementation progress reports submitted by Parties to the Tobacco Convention, the political interference of the tobacco industry remains the biggest obstacle to full implementation of the Convention.

And so important is Article 5.3 to the implementation of the FCTC that the WHO's last 'Impact Assessment of the WHO FCTC' acknowledged, and I quote, that "application of Article 5.3 across all levels of government is the **highest priority for progress** in implementation [of the treaty]."

To avoid having to deal with corporate capture and conflicts of interest down the road, we call upon States to protect the negotiations, and the national policies and processes that will result from the treaty, from the undue influence of TNCs, trade associations and those representing corporate vested interests by imposing general obligations on States and TNCs.

Specifically, we call for the Treaty to require States to:

1. act to protect law and policy-making and implementation from commercial and other vested interests of TNCs by excluding them from the Treaty process,
2. avoid conflicts of interest for government officials and employees,
3. act against interference from commercial and other vested interests,
4. institute two-year revolving door bans between State agencies and TNCs, and vice versa,
5. reject partnerships and non-binding or non-enforceable agreements with TNCs,

6. establish measures to limit interactions and ensure the transparency and accountability of those that occur, and
7. denormalize and regulate activities described as quote “socially responsible” by TNCs.

We direct you to our written submission and the draft treaty proposal of the Global Campaign for our full set of recommendations. Thank you, Mister Chair.