

**Declaration for Argentina's ratification of the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework
Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) - May 2021**

Considering that:

In Argentina tobacco consumption affects almost 9,000,000 people and it is the first preventable cause of premature death; 47,700 people die every year from smoking-related diseases that could be avoided;

More than 22% of the adult population in our country smokes, which represents one of the highest rates in the region;

The age of onset of tobacco consumption is between 12 and 15 years and 1 of 5 adolescents between 13 and 15 smoke;

More than 197,000 million pesos are destined to attend diseases caused by tobacco consumption. This represents around 7.6% of the total health expenditure;

In times of the COVID-19 pandemic, smokers are more exposed to the negative consequences of the virus;

Although the prevalence of tobacco use has declined in the last decade, mortality remains high and per capita consumption has remained stable over the last 15 years;

Recognising that:

The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) is the first global public health treaty, which seeks to provide a global response to the tobacco epidemic;

182 countries are parties to the FCTC and our country is the only one in South America, and one of the few in the world, that is not part of this treaty, despite having signed it in 2003;

The national regulatory framework is not enough to protect people's right to health;

The United Nations Committees for the Convention against the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Working Group for the Universal Periodic Review urged Argentina to ratify the FCTC in order to

protect people's right to health;

The UN Agenda 2030 establishes the signing and ratification of the FCTC as one of its goals;

It is the State's duty to guarantee health as a human right above any particular interest;

Tobacco-attributable mortality is observed mainly in developing countries and the burden this imposes on families and national health systems makes it necessary for tobacco control policies to become a priority in the governmental agenda of the region;

In the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, advancing in the FCTC ratification process becomes fundamental, considering the tools that the Convention provides to implement effective tobacco control policies in order to reduce the burden and disease.

Affirming that ratification of the FCTC is necessary:

To confront a global epidemic that necessarily requires political strategies of international cooperation;

To participate in global health policy decisions to address the tobacco epidemic;

To comply with international human rights treaties and the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, which establish the obligation to ensure the highest attainable standard of health;

To reduce the burden of death, disease and disability caused by smoking in our country, especially among the most vulnerable sectors;

To ensure transparency in the relationship between the government and the tobacco industry to prevent companies from hindering the adoption of effective tobacco control policies;

To guarantee the population access to tobacco cessation information and treatment;

To seek a solution to illicit trade of tobacco products in coordination with other countries, especially in MERCOSUR;

To reach consensus with neighboring countries on policies restricting cross-border advertising, promotion and sponsorship;

To obtain the necessary assistance to advance in the diversification/substitution of tobacco crops, guaranteeing the health and economic sustainability of tobacco producers, especially the small

ones, and the protection of the environment;

In order to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, the undersigned organizations request

That Argentina Executive Branch provides sufficient means for the urgent ratification of the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

N°	Organization	Country
1	Asociación Argentina de Derecho de Daños	Argentina
2	Aire Libre	Argentina
3	Alianza Libre de Humo Argentina	Argentina
4	Consumidores Argentinos	Argentina
5	FIC Argentina	Argentina
6	Fundación para el Desarrollo de Políticas Sustentables (FUNDEPS)	Argentina
7	Asociación Argentina de Tabacología (ASAT)	Argentina
8	Asoaciación Argentina de Medicina Respiratoria (AAMR)	Argentina
9	Foro Aire Libre para Neuquén (AILIHN)	Argentina
10	Centro Médico Respire	Argentina
11	Instituto Interdisciplinario de Economía Política (UBA - CONICET)	Argentina
12	Sociedad Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Oncología Médica (SLACOM)	Argentina
13	Unión Antitabáquica Argentina	Argentina
14	Fundación Cencor	Argentina
15	Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer (FEIM)	Argentina
16	Universidad Nacional del Comahue	Argentina
17	Facultad de Ciencias Medicas, Universidad Nacional de Rosario	Argentina
18	Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud, Universidad Adventista del Plata	Argentina
19	Hospital Argerich	Argentina
20	Ministerio de Salud de Tierra del Fuego, programa de Control de Tabaco	Argentina
21	RACI	Argentina
22	Instituto Nacional del Cáncer, Ministerio de Salud	Brasil
23	ACT Promoção da Saúde	Brasil
24	Universidade Federal Fluminense	Brasil
25	Universidade Federal do Paraná	Brasil
26	Alianza Bolivia Libre Sin Tabaco	Bolivia

27	FIC Bolivia	Bolivia
28	Universidad Adolfo Ibañez	Chile
29	Respira Libre	Chile
30	Red Nacional Antitabaco de Costa Rica (RENATA)	Costa Rica
31	Red PaPaz	Colombia
32	Educación Consumidores	Colombia
33	FUNSAD	Ecuador
34	Fundabla	El Salvador
35	University of California, Irvine	Estados Unidos
36	Corporate Accountability	Internacional
37	World Heart Federation	Internacional
38	Consumer Voice	India
39	MAYA	India
40	The Heart Foundation of Jamaica	Jamaica
41	Asociación Mexicana de Diabetes	México
42	Coalición México Salud-Hable	México
43	Polithink	México
44	Salud Justa	México
45	Refleacciona	México
46	Universidad Autónoma de México, seminario de Estudios Políticos	México
47	PREVENFISAME A.C.	México
48	CRECE A.C	México
49	Fundación Gonzalo Río Arronte I.A.P.	México
50	Hospital General de México	México
51	Instituto Nacional de Psiquiatría Ramón de la Fuente Muñiz	México
52	Códice	México
53	Asociación Mexicana de Lucha Contra el Cáncer AC	México
54	ANAFARMEX	México
55	Organización Panamericana de la Salud	México
56	Ministerio de Salud	Panamá
57	Centro de Información y Educación para la Prevención del Abuso de Drogas (CEDRO)	Perú
58	Comisión Nacional Permanente de Lucha Antitabáquica (COLAT)	Perú
59	Alianza Juvenil por el Bienestar y el Desarrollo	Regional

60	Coalición América Saludable (CLAS)	Regional
61	InterAmerican Heart Foundation	Regional
62	Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids	South Africa
63	Cart Agency	South Africa
64	Centro de Investigación para la Epidemia del Tabaquismo (CIET)	Uruguay
65	Fundación Venezolana del Corazón	Venezuela