Management of Conflict of Interest

On behalf the Healthy LatinAmerican Coalition we are here to submit our statement on regards public-private partnerships.

To protect the right to health, measures must be taken to avoid the interference of the tobacco, food, sugar-sweetened beverages and alcohol industries when establishing and implementing public health policies.

Although many countries in the World have made progress in preventing NCDs, one of the main reasons why these policies are not successful enough is the deliberate action of companies that commercialize non-healthy products as ultra-processed foods, tobacco, alcoholic and sugary drinks. These actions are aggressive strategies to increase sales, prevent the sanction and implementation of effective policies that limit the commercialization, advertising and consumption of these products.

Due to the similarity between the strategies being developed by the of ultra-processed edible products and sugary drinks, alcoholic beverages and tobacco industries, it is essential that governments commit themselves to develop concrete actions to avoid conflicts of interest in decision-making processes and design processes policies for the prevention of NCDs. In this framework, the WHO advises States, in order to avoid the interference of industries, to develop a legal framework with binding rules and sanctions for non-compliance cases. In addition, they must develop a written policy on conflicts of interest that establishes clear rules on what types of behaviors are prohibited\(^1\).

Finally, effective policies are required to ensure that the sanctioned legislation in the prevention of NCDs is based on scientific evidence, independent of corporate interests. It is not enough with the political commitment to avoid conflicts of interest, the sanction of mandatory

\(^1\) WHO; Direction and Management of Conflicts of Interest.
regulations is required. Examples such Article 5.3 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and its guidelines \(^2\) are fundamental for the promotion of positive measures that limit the interference of industries that commercialize unhealthy products and protect the implementation of effective measures for the protection of health.

We respectfully recommend to the Delegations to include into the Political Declaration of the Third High Level Meeting on Non-communicable diseases to commit in the adoption of the necessary measures to guarantee transparency and the elimination of conflicts of interest with the tobacco, food, sugar and alcoholic beverages industries. Thank You.

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