

# Index for Tobacco Control Sustainability

ECUADOR

INDICATORS		Present (P)/ Absent (A)	Weighted Score	Country Score
1	Prerequisite Indicator: >4 MPOWER policies in place	A	9	0
2	National tobacco control budget (annual)	A	7	0
3	National tobacco control law	P	6	6
4	National budget allocation for tobacco control capacity building	A	6	0
5	Tobacco taxation >75% of retail sales price	A	6	0
6	Tobacco taxation increases faster than inflation plus gross domestic product growth	A	6	0
7	National tobacco control unit	P	5	5
8	Civil society tobacco control network	A	5	0
9	Civil society representation in national tobacco control advisory committees	P	5	5
10	Health promotion fund for, or including, tobacco control	P	5	5
11	National policy against tobacco industry corporate social responsibility	P	5	5
12	Tobacco-related mortality and morbidity recording system	A	5	0
13	National evaluation framework in place	P	5	5
14	Evaluation built into all major policy implementation plans	A	5	0
15	National tobacco control strategy	A	4	0
16	Tobacco control and non-communicable diseases form part of national health policy	A	4	0
17	Tobacco control forms part of national development plan	P	4	4
18	Human resource for implementation (national)	P	4	4
19	Global Tobacco Surveillance System surveys	P	4	4
20	Intergovernmental coordination mechanism	P	3	3
21	Capacity building plan for tobacco control personnel	A	3	0
22	Developmental assistance funding includes tobacco control	A	3	0
23	Code of conduct for government officials and staff	A	3	0
24	Ministry of health WHO FCTC Article 5.3 policy	P	3	3
25	WHO FCTC Article 5.3 policy across all ministries	A	3	0
26	Economic and social tobacco costs data	P	3	3
27	National focal point post	P	3	3
28	National advisory committee	P	2	2
29	Capacity building plans on research and evaluation	A	2	0
30	Mass media campaigns funded	A	1	0
31	Capacity building plan for non tobacco control specific personnel	A	1	0
<b>Total Score</b>			<b>130</b>	<b>57</b>

## Explanation of the scores:

1. Prerequisite Indicator: >4 MPOWER policies in place: According to the GTCR 2021 report, Ecuador has MPW at highest level of practice.
2. National tobacco control budget (annual): N/A
3. National tobacco control law: Organic Law for the Regulation and Control of Tobacco.
4. National budget allocation for tobacco control capacity building: N/A
5. Tobacco taxation >75% of retail sales price: N/A
6. Tobacco taxation increases faster than inflation plus gross domestic product growth: N/A.
7. National tobacco control unit: The National Tobacco Control team is functional under the MOH.
8. Civil society tobacco control network: N/A.
9. Civil society representation in national tobacco control advisory committees: In place.
10. Health promotion fund for, or including, tobacco control: In place.
11. National policy against tobacco industry corporate social responsibility: In place.
12. Tobacco-related mortality and morbidity recording system: N/A
13. National evaluation framework in place: in place
14. Evaluation built into all major policy implementation plans: N/A.
15. National tobacco control strategy: N/A.
16. Tobacco control and noncommunicable diseases form part of national health policy: N/A.
17. Tobacco control forms part of national development plan: In place.
18. Human resource for implementation (national): There are dedicated staff at both national and sub-national levels.
19. Global Tobacco Surveillance System surveys: In place.
20. Intergovernmental coordination mechanism: In place.
21. Capacity building plan for tobacco control personnel: N/A.
22. Developmental assistance funding includes tobacco control: N/A.
23. Code of conduct for government officials and staff: N/A.
24. Ministry of health WHO FCTC Article 5.3 policy: In place.
25. WHO FCTC Article 5.3 policy across all ministries: N/A.
26. Economic and social tobacco costs data: In place.
27. National focal point post: There is a dedicated tobacco control focal point at the national level.
28. National advisory committee: In place.

29. Capacity building plans on research and evaluation: N/A.
30. Mass media campaigns funded: N/A
31. Capacity building plan for non-tobacco control specific personnel: N/A

## Main findings.

### Progress in tobacco control sustainability since 2016

In recent years, Ecuador has made significant strides in tobacco control. The implementation of the Organic Law for the Regulation and Control of Tobacco in 2011 has yielded positive outcomes. Notably, the country has imposed restrictions on the sale of tobacco products in various public spaces such as stadiums and cultural venues. Additionally, Ecuador mandates that tobacco product packaging display pictorial health warnings covering 60 percent of the front and back, along with other essential health information on 70 percent of one side. The use of misleading terms like “light” is strictly prohibited.

Regarding advertising, promotion, and sponsorship of tobacco products, Ecuador has taken a firm stance. Most advertising formats are prohibited, although limited forms of advertising are permitted in adult-only areas. Furthermore, the country strictly prohibits the publicity of sponsorship. In terms of creating smoke-free environments, Ecuador has implemented measures to restrict smoking in public places, transportation, and indoor workplaces.

### Remaining gaps in tobacco control sustainability:

The country faces several challenges in advancing its tobacco control agenda. One prominent issue is the absence of restrictions on the internet regarding the sale of tobacco products. To address this concern, it is imperative to implement limitations on online platforms to regulate the sale of tobacco.

Additionally, a crucial step towards effective tobacco control would be the implementation of a complete ban on tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship. Such a measure would significantly contribute to reducing the influence of tobacco marketing and its harmful effects on public health.

The adoption of plain packaging as a tobacco control policy holds great potential in improving the overall health of the population. By removing attractive branding and imagery from tobacco products, plain packaging discourages their appeal and reduces the likelihood of initiation among nonsmokers.

To establish truly smoke-free environments, it is essential to consider extending the ban on smoking to hotel guest rooms. This measure would ensure that individuals, including nonsmokers and those with respiratory conditions, are protected from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.

Lastly, it is worth considering the implementation of more comprehensive legislation at the subnational level. By enacting stricter tobacco control measures at regional or local levels, the country can effectively address the challenges posed by tobacco use and create a unified approach towards public health.