

# WPA Arms and Tobacco Non-Engagement Policy



**World  
Patients  
Alliance**

# WPA Arms and Tobacco Non-Engagement Policy

## **Policy Title and Purpose**

This Arms and Tobacco Non-Engagement Policy outlines the World Patients Alliance's (WPA) commitment to ethical engagement and alignment with global public health standards. It ensures that WPA does not engage with the arms or tobacco industries (hereinafter referred to as ATI), in accordance with:

- The World Health Organization's Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (FENSA)
- Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

By implementing this policy, WPA ensures its operations remain free from conflicts of interest with these harmful industries.

## **Scope and Applicability**

- This policy applies to all WPA-led operations and governance bodies, including its Board, staff, committees, and representatives.
- WPA encourages its external collaborators and partners to align with WHO's principles and refrain from engagements with ATI.
- All activities conducted under the WPA name or with WPA resources must adhere to this policy without exception.

## **Definition of non-engagement**

Non-engagement of WPA refers to the total exclusion of any relationship, whether financial, operational, advisory, or representational.

For clarity, the following terms are defined:

- Arms/Tobacco Industries: Includes any entity involved in manufacturing, distributing, promoting, or lobbying for these organizations, including parent companies, subsidiaries, and affiliated organizations.
- Non-Engagement: A complete prohibition on financial, operational, advisory, or representational relationships.

## **Policy Commitments**

WPA is strictly prohibited from:

- Financial ties: Accepting funding, sponsorships, or in-kind support from ATI.
- Collaborative activities: WPA shall not collaborate with, endorse, or co-brand any activities involving ATI.

In alignment with this policy, WPA shall actively encourage its member organizations and affiliates to align with WHO policies and standards. This includes advising them to refrain from accepting donations or engaging in partnerships involving ATI.

## **Due Diligence and Screening**

To implement this policy and ensure organizational compliance, WPA shall conduct structured screening of all entities applying for affiliation with WPA.

The process includes the following steps:

1. Completion of a Screening Summary Log entailing (annexure) public record screening through online platforms (e.g., search engines, organizational websites, and social media) by the staff to identify any direct affiliations with the ATI for every entity entering an official relationship with WPA.
2. Documentation of search results, with screen captures and links retained in a secure folder if any red flags are found.
3. Forward the case to the WPA Governance and Ethics Committee for final decision.

WPA shall retain all screening records for a minimum of five (5) years for audit readiness and transparency.

## **Staff Roles and Responsibilities**

- The HR officer is responsible for screening new hires, board and committee candidates for any direct relationship with ATI.
- The Partnerships officer shall screen collaborators and sponsors for any direct relationship with ATI.
- All the above officers must report any red flags to the Governance and Ethics Committee.

## WPA Governance and Ethics Committee

WPA has established a Governance and Ethics Committee that shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors, which will serve as the final arbiter for this policy. The committee shall be responsible for ensuring that all public engagements align with WPA's Arms and Tobacco Non-Engagement Policy. It shall oversee the policy's implementation and shall receive screening reports from the relevant staff members for review.

Their responsibilities include:

- Reviewing all submitted cases.
- Request clarification from the entity if a case is flagged and additional information is needed.
- Making recommendations to the Board of Directors for binding determinations on all cases.

## Reporting and Enforcement

- Any violation of the policy, or information regarding an affiliation with the ATI, can be reported—either anonymously or with one's name—to the Governance and Ethics Committee at [report@worldpatientsalliance.org](mailto:report@worldpatientsalliance.org). The Committee shall investigate the complaint and make recommendations to the Board of Directors for binding determinations on all cases.

In case of any violation or misreporting, the Governance and Ethics Committee shall recommend the Board of Directors to take disciplinary action, which may include partnership termination, removal from office, or other necessary measures depending on the severity of the breach.

## Monitoring and Verification

- A compliance report shall be presented to the Board of Directors on an annual basis.
- WPA shall conduct a review of this policy on a biennial basis.

## Declaration and Compliance Mechanism

Compliance with the policy shall be ensured at the time of **on boarding** or renewal of engagement.

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**WPA Screening Summary Log**

**WPA Board of Directors/ Advisory Board Members/ Staff/ Committee Members /  
Representatives**

This log must be completed for the above-mentioned individuals associated with WPA. It outlines the due diligence process to ensure there are no affiliations with the ATI, in compliance with WPA’s Arms and Tobacco Non-Engagement Policy.

Name:	
Date of Screening:	
Platforms Used (Google, LinkedIn, Facebook, X):  Search Keywords Used:	
Red Flag Identified:	Yes    No If yes, contact the Entity for Clarification:            Date contacted: _____  Response Received:
WPA Conflict of Interest form filled:	Yes    No
Additional Comments:	
Reviewer Name:	
Reviewer Signature:	

- Create a folder/ file with 'Supporting Evidence' and include:
- - Screenshots of relevant web results with URLs and date of access.
  - -any correspondence or clarification emails.

# WPA Screening Summary Log

## Collaborating Organization

This log must be completed for every collaborating organization associated with WPA. It outlines the due diligence process to ensure there are no affiliations with the ATI, in compliance with WPA's Arms and Tobacco Non-Engagement Policy.

Name:	
Date of Screening:	
Platforms Used (Google, LinkedIn, Facebook, X):  Search Keywords Used:	
Red Flag Identified:	Yes    No If yes, contact the Entity for Clarification:            Date contacted: _____  Response Received:
Additional Comments:	
Reviewer Name:	
Reviewer Signature:	

Create a folder/ file with 'Supporting Evidence' and include:

- - Screenshots of relevant web results with URLs and date of access.
- -any correspondence or clarification emails.

# WPA Screening Summary Log

## Industry/ Partners/Sponsors/Donors

This log must be completed for all the above-mentioned entities associated with WPA. It outlines the due diligence process to ensure there is no direct relationship with the ATI.

Name:	
Date of Screening:	
Platforms Used (Google, LinkedIn, Facebook, X):  Search Keywords Used:	
Red Flag Identified:	Yes    No If yes, contact the Entity for Clarification:      Date contacted: _____  Response Received:
Additional Comments:	
Reviewer Name:	
Reviewer Signature:	

Create a folder/ file with 'Supporting Evidence' and include:

- - Screenshots of relevant web results with URLs and date of access.
- -any correspondence or clarification emails.