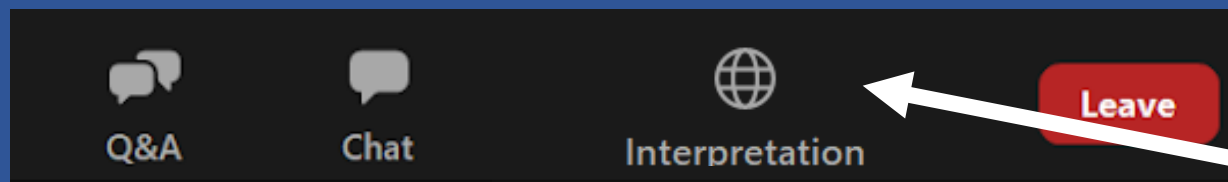
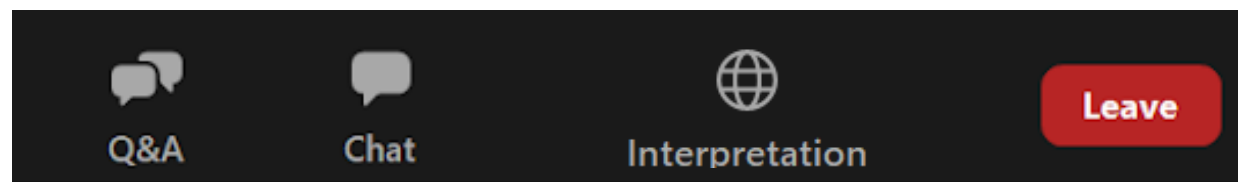


Human Rights and the Environmental Impacts of the Tobacco Production Chain



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Technology



Ask questions through the Q&A box. We will review them to answer at the end.

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Speakers



Maria Juliana Moura Corrêa

*Director of the Department of
Environmental and Workers Health
Surveillance, Brazilian Ministry of Health*



Carolyn Dresler

*Board Trustee,
Action on Smoking and Health*



Brenda Chitindi

*Founder/ Executive Director,
Tobacco Free Association of Zambia*

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info@ash.org
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Have you seen tobacco industry interference in public health policymaking? Email us the details at info@ash.org!



NEXT WEBINAR: May 18, 2023

1:00pm ET | 17:00 GMT | 10:00am PT

Food Security, Tobacco Farming, and Diversification of Rural Livelihoods

Translation available in English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese.

Tool for Advocates

Tobacco & Human Rights Hub

ash.org/hrhub



**What a human rights lens can bring
to tobacco control -**

And,

**what does the environment have to do
with it?**

Carolyn Dresler, MD, MPA

The Fundamental Challenge

Utilizing a Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) framework for Public Health should increase the public's awareness of the societal NEED to look at Public Health *and* Human Rights

- specifically in reference to tobacco control - and the environment

Human Rights Based Approach

- Human Rights: not only includes physical and mental health, but societal and *environmental conditions* that enable that state of good health
 - **Advocates**
 - **Public Health practitioners**
 - **Lawyers – policy and litigation**
 - **Specific expertise – addiction, *environment***
 - **Others**
 - ECOSOC, UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO, ILO, Global Compact, UNEP, WTO, IMF, UNDP; World Bank
 - **THE OTHER SIDE – Tobacco Industry**

Who has rights?

- All humans: "Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world" (Universal Declaration of Human Rights)
- All humans equally
- All humans as individuals
- **All** human rights are important
 - inter-related
 - inter-dependent
- Application of human rights has no boundaries, no state lines (International Criminal Court; Kyoto; Land Mine)

Agency and Duty

Agency:

- the state of being in action or of exerting power; operation
- a means of exerting power or influence; instrumentality

Duty:

- the binding or obligatory force of something that is morally or legally right; a moral or legal obligation

HRBA to Tobacco Control

- Principle of progressive realization
 - Obligation to take steps using the maximum available resource
 - Deliberate, concrete & targeted steps
 - Distinguish government: incapacity vs unwillingness
 - Use indicators (structural, process & outcomes) and benchmarks
- The role of capacity development

Types of human rights obligations

Obligation to



Respect



Duty-bearer to
refrain from
interfering with
enjoying the
right

Protect



Duty-bearer to
prevent others
interfering with
the enjoyment
of the right

Fulfill



Duty-bearer to
adopt appropriate
measures towards
full realization of
the right

Human Rights Documents

International Bill of Rights:

- Universal **D**eclaration of Human Rights (1948)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)

What Rights?

- Right to health
- Right to a healthy environment
- Right to work under 'just and favorable conditions' (UDHR, Article 23); ICESCR Article 6
- Right to information
- Right to food – affordable, adequate, appropriate
- Right to water

Right to health

- **UDHR – Article 25**: ‘the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services’
- **WHO definition**: ‘Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity’
- **ICESCR - Article 12**: ‘recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.’

General Comment 14

- access of safe and potable water,
- safe and healthy working conditions and a healthy environment,
- access to health-related education and information,
- “prevention and reduction of the population’s exposure to harmful substances such as ...harmful chemicals or other detrimental environmental conditions that directly or indirectly impact upon human health.”

General Comment 14

- ‘The improvement of all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene’ (from Article 12 ICESCR):
“refers to the minimization, so far as is reasonably practicable, of the causes of health hazards inherent in the working environment.”
- AND: ‘discourages the abuse of alcohol, and the use of tobacco, drugs and other harmful substances’

General Comment 14

Violations of the obligation to protect:

- This category includes such omissions as the failure to regulate the activities of individuals, groups or corporations so as to prevent them from violating the right to health of others; the failure to protect consumers and workers from practices detrimental to health, eg. by employers and manufacturers of medicines or food; **the failure to discourage production , marketing and consumption of tobacco, narcotics and other harmful substances,....”**

Right to a healthy environment . . .

- ICESCR – Article 7: ‘right of everyone to... safe and health working conditions’
- **ICESCR – Article 15:** ‘recognize the right of everyone...to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications’
- **CRC - Article 17:** discusses the child’s right to information aimed at the promotion of his or her social, physical and mental health
- **CRC - Article 32:** child is to be protected from economic exploitation; doing work that is ‘likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child’s education’

India: Right to healthy environment

- India –High Court of Kerala banned public smoking based on a right to a healthy environment – 1999
- Supreme Court issued ban in 2001
- National legislation for smokefree policies into effect 2004

Three Legs of the Argument

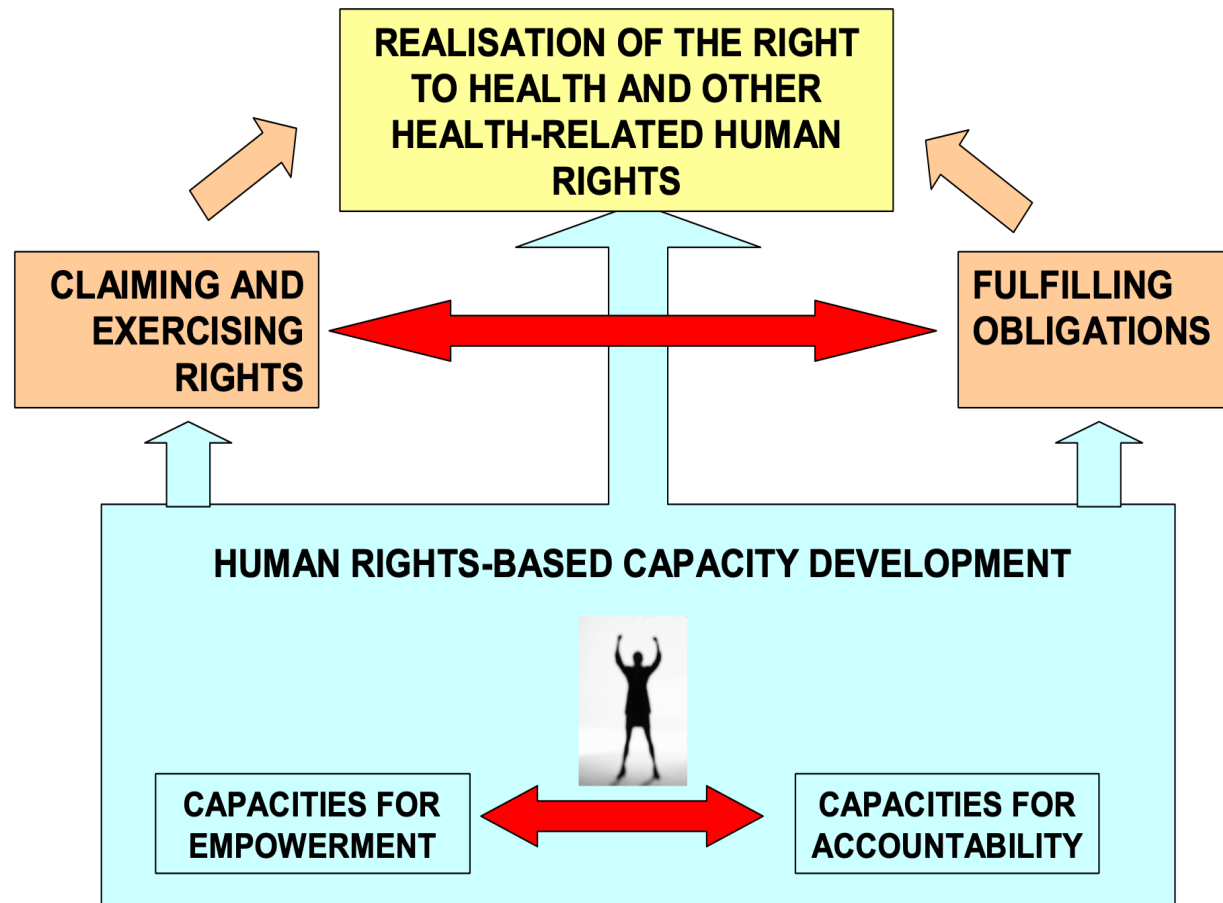
**Magnitude of
the problem**

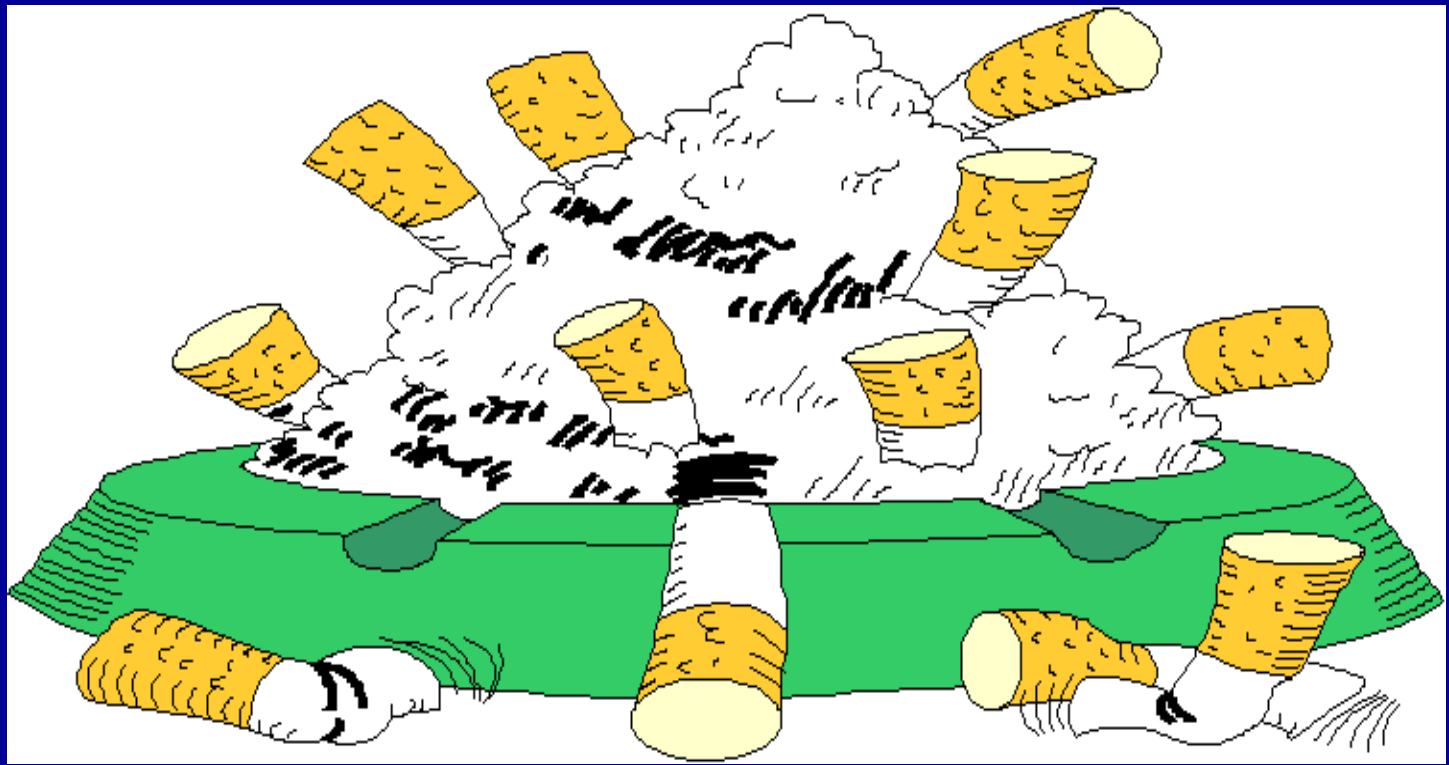
**Right to TC derives
from the right to life and
right to health; right to
healthy environment**

**Tobacco
when used
as intended,
kills**



The role of Capacity Development





The End!

UNEP

- Developing regional programs for environmental sustainability
- Helping, upon request, environment ministries and other environmental authorities, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to formulate and implement environmental policies
- Environment Management Group – opportunity for discussion?

EDUCATING POLICYMAKERS AND THE PUBLIC TO UNDERSTAND THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF TOBACCO PRODUCTION CHAIN

Brenda Chitindi

Tobacco Free Association of Zambia (TOFAZA)

Email Address: bichitindi@yahoo.com

04/05/2023



Introduction

- The tobacco supply chain poses serious environmental consequences, including deforestation, water and air pollution, and post-consumer waste and littering globally.
- Despite the enormous profitability, the tobacco industry (TI) bears none of the health and environmental costs caused by tobacco production and is not accountable for its environmental impact.
- Environmental issues are becoming more and more relevant to society and part of the sustainable development and human rights agenda, greater attention should be given to the impact of tobacco production and consumption on the planet.

Objectives

- . To highlight lack of accountability of tobacco industry for the life and environmental costs of tobacco production chain.
- . To highlight the significant environmental pollution caused by the manufacturing and transporting of tobacco products.
- . To call on Governments to establishment legal frameworks as the best tools for controlling the tobacco industry and preventing it from ending people's lives.

Health Impacts of Tobacco Production

- Tobacco use is a leading cause of preventable death in the World, with an estimated of over 8 million global deaths annually.
- Throughout its production cycle tobacco pollutes the planet and damages the health of all the people in the world.
- Vulnerable children are exposed to second-hand smoke, tobacco production health hazards and child labour hazardous work that expose them to several illnesses.
- Tobacco production chain puts a strain on counties' healthcare system and contributes to the burden of non-communicable diseases.
- The health impacts of pesticide exposure can be significant, and unprotected of handling of tobacco leaf ranging from acute poisoning to Green Tobacco Sickness.

Environmental Impacts of Tobacco Growing

- The WHO FCTC Article 18 calls for the protection of the environment in addition to human health due to the negative impacts of tobacco production on environment.
- At every stage of tobacco production chain poses serious environmental consequences including deforestation, the use of fossil fuels and dumping of waste products into natural environment.
- The harmful impact of the tobacco industry on the environment is vast and growing adding unnecessary pressure to our planet's scarce resources and fragile ecosystems.
- Tobacco farming is a major cause of deforestation worldwide and contributes to increased greenhouse gas emissions, global warming, changes in rainfall, and irreversible biodiversity loss.
- The entire life cycle of tobacco from cultivation to consumption causes environmental damage.
- Tobacco farming requires large amounts of water and can contribute to water scarcity in areas where access to clean water is limited.
- The use of pesticides and fertilizers in tobacco farming can contaminate local water sources, leading to environmental degradation and harm to wildlife.

Child Labor in Tobacco Growing



Violation of Human Rights on Tobacco Growing

- Tobacco being labor intensive, children are often engaged in tobacco farming, missing school to help with watering seedlings, planting, harvesting and curing.
- Tobacco growing and marketing is associated with unfair practices, with many farmers trapped in debt to leaf buyers.
- Contract farmers often generate little to no profit, and the use of unpaid family labor, including children, is common.
- Farmers have limited knowledge of the toxicity of pesticides and fertilizers used in tobacco growing, which can harm their health and contaminate local water sources.
- Pesticides and fertilizers used in tobacco farming can be highly toxic, and farmers often lack protective equipment or training on safe handling practices.

CONCLUSION

- Tobacco production pose environmental risks and the need to hold tobacco industry accountable for its actions as we strive to preserve our planet.
- The tobacco industry is making profits by destroying the environment and need to be held accountable for the environmental destruction and made to pay for the waste damages , including the cost of cleaning up of tobacco wastes.
- Governments should not accept tobacco industry donations to sustain initiatives and reporting on environmental standards or planting trees as this is an attempt to distract environmental standards.
- Greater attention should be given to the impact of tobacco production and consumption on the environment as we strive to preserve our planet and promote sustainable development and human rights.
- Help tobacco farmers switch to sustainable crops to reduce the environmental impact of tobacco production chain.

THANK YOU