



**CORPORATE
ACCOUNTABILITY
INTERNATIONAL**



Open Letter

29 January 2014

Mayor Ullrich Sierau
City of Dortmund
44122 Dortmund
Germany

Dear Mayor of Dortmund, Mr. Ullrich Sierau,

I am writing on behalf of Corporate Accountability International and the Network for Accountability of Tobacco Transnationals (NATT) to urge you to abide by the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) by halting Inter-tabac ASIA fairs and divesting the City of Dortmund from all entities working to further the interests of the tobacco industry, including Westfalahallen Dortmund GmbH. Specifically, we are deeply concerned that the city of Dortmund is promoting trade in tobacco in Indonesia through Westfalahallen Dortmund GmbH's Inter-tabac ASIA on 27/28 February in Bali, Indonesia.

Corporate Accountability International is a nonprofit organization that for more than 35 years has been waging and winning bold campaigns that safeguard public health, human rights, and the environment from corporate abuse. Corporate Accountability International chairs NATT – a network of dozens of organizations around the world working in as many countries for a strong, enforceable WHO FCTC.

Tobacco remains the largest preventable cause of death on the planet. The tobacco industry's business model relies on exporting this epidemic from the world's wealthiest countries to the most economically disadvantaged. The tobacco industry and entities such as Westfalahallen Dortmund GmbH are driving the spread of this epidemic through promotion of tobacco. Germany, as one of 177 Parties to the WHO FCTC has committed to implementing lifesaving measures of the FCTC, including a critical provision – Article 5.3.

Implementation guidelines of Article 5.3 declare “Parties should not accept, support or endorse partnerships...with the tobacco industry or any entity or person working to further its interests.” The same guidelines declare “Government institutions and their bodies should not have any financial interest in the tobacco industry.” Through Inter-tabac fairs, Westfalahallen Dortmund GmbH is a company working to promote the sale, production, and manufacture of tobacco and is therefore an entity working to further the interests of the tobacco industry. Being the sole shareholder of Westfalahallen Dortmund GmbH, the city of Dortmund is in violation of FCTC Article 5.3 and its guidelines and bears responsibility for the promotion of this deadly product.

Last week, the governor of Bali, I Made Mangku Pastika, rejected the Inter-tabac ASIA fair in Indonesia. This indicates an economic risk associated with the Inter-tabac ASIA fairs. For all of the reasons above as well as the economic risk, we strongly urge you to stop the Inter-tabac ASIA in Indonesia and any future Inter-tabac ASIA fairs. Furthermore, we urge you to dissociate Dortmund from the tobacco industry in order to abide by your obligations as a Party to the WHO FCTC and save lives.

BOSTON

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Please do not hesitate to contact me at jstewart@stopcorporateabuse.org or +1-617-695-2525 if you would like any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Stewart".

John Stewart
Director, Challenge Big Tobacco Campaign
Corporate Accountability International & NATT

NATT represents non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in more than 50 countries for a strong, enforceable WHO FCTC. Corporate Accountability International is the Secretariat for this network and is an organization that, for 35 years, has campaigned to save lives and protect people's health, the environment and human rights by challenging corporate abuses and holding transnational corporations accountable to the interests of society at large. Corporate Accountability International is a nonprofit organization with over 100,000 individual members and hundreds of allies around the world. We are officially accredited with the WHO, the Conference of the Parties to the FCTC and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

NATT Steering Committee:

Akinbode Oluwafemi, Environmental Rights Action – Nigeria

Bobby Ramakant, Vote for Health Campaign of Asha Parivar and Citizen News Service – India

Irene Reyes, HealthJustice Philippines - Philippines

Labram Musah, Vision for Alternative Development – Ghana

Muyunda Ililonga, Zambia Consumer Association – Zambia

Philip Jakpor, Environmental Rights Action – Nigeria

Samuel Ochieng, Consumer Information Network – Kenya

Yul Francisco Dorado, Corporate Accountability International – Colombia

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