



# **NON-ENGAGEMENT POLICY & DECLARATION OF AFFILIATION**

**APRIL 2025**

## Background

The West African Alcohol Policy Alliance (WAAPA) is a regional network committed to advocating for the development, implementation and enforcement of evidence-based alcohol policies, programs and legislations in West Africa. WAAPA works with governments, civil society organizations and public health institutions to promote evidence-based alcohol control policies, raise awareness about the dangers of alcohol consumption and support national and regional efforts to regulate alcohol. WAAPA also engages in research, policy advocacy and capacity-building initiatives to strengthen the alcohol policy landscape in the region.

The National Alcohol Policy Alliances (NAPA) serve as national-level coalitions aligned with WAAPA's mission, working to implement alcohol control measures within their respective countries. To ensure our work remains independent and free from conflicts of interest, WAAPA upholds a strict non-engagement policy with industries whose products contribute to public health harm. This includes, but is not limited to, the alcohol industry, sugar-sweetened beverage industry and tobacco industry, along with their representatives and affiliates. This policy prevents undue influence and safeguards the integrity of WAAPA's and NAPA's mission.

## Scope of Policy

This policy applies to all WAAPA members, including organizations, individuals and affiliates operating under the WAAPA umbrella. For the purpose of this policy, affiliates include any entities, individuals, or organizations that receive funding, sponsorship, or other forms of support from the alcohol, tobacco, or sugar-sweetened beverage industries. This prohibition extends to third-party organizations acting on behalf of these industries.

## Prohibited Engagements

WAAPA members shall not:

1. Accept funding, sponsorship, or donations from the alcohol, tobacco, or sugar-sweetened beverage industries or entities acting on their behalf.
2. Enter into partnerships, collaborations, or events organized, co-hosted, or sponsored by these industries.
3. Engage in formal or informal discussions, negotiations, or lobbying efforts with representatives from these industries.
4. Promote, endorse, or facilitate industry-led initiatives, research, corporate social

responsibility programs, or campaigns.

5. Allow industry influence in WAAPA-related advocacy, research, or policy development.
6. Conduct joint research or policy-related work with institutions that receive funding from these industries.
7. Serve on advisory boards or committees that include representatives from the alcohol, tobacco, or sugar-sweetened beverage industries.
8. Engage in any form of direct or indirect communication with the alcohol, tobacco, or sugar-sweetened beverage industries unless legally mandated and even then, WAAPA leadership must be informed in advance.
9. Participate in any policy discussions, government consultations, or decision-making processes where these industries are given a role in shaping public health policies. In a situation you are invited to attend, you must seek for guidance and adopt multi-diverse approach.

## **Declaration of Compliance**

By signing this declaration, I affirm that I:

1. Understand and agree to abide by WAAPA's Non-Engagement Policy.
2. Have no existing affiliations and will not establish any affiliations with the alcohol, tobacco, or sugar-sweetened beverage industries that could create a conflict of interest.
3. Will disclose any potential conflicts of interest to WAAPA immediately.
4. Will uphold WAAPA's mission to protect public health by maintaining independence from the alcohol, tobacco, or sugar-sweetened beverage industries.

## **Consequences of Non-Compliance**

Any member found to be in violation of this policy may be subject to:

1. Formal warnings
2. Suspension or revocation of membership
3. Public disclosure of non-compliance
4. Exclusion from WAAPA-led initiatives, partnerships and funding opportunities

WAAPA has established a Disciplinary Committee responsible for investigating alleged violations. The committee will follow a structured process that includes notifying the concerned member, reviewing the case and providing an opportunity

for a response before any action is taken. The enforcement of this policy will be transparent, fair and consistently applied.

**Acknowledgment & Signature**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and a member of WAAPA, acknowledge that on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ I have read, understood and agreed to comply with the WAAPA Non-Engagement Policy. I declare that I have no conflicting affiliations and will not establish any affiliations with the alcohol, tobacco and sugar-sweetened beverage industries.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**For Official Use by WAAPA:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed & Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Head of Secretariat**

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