National policies regulating e-cigarette use in Africa

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Track J: Strides Towards Tobacco Policy And Development
Introduction

- E-cigarettes have increased in popularity globally
- The Institute for Global Tobacco Control (IGTC) compiles the e-cigarette policies from around the world
- Some countries classify these products as tobacco products while others distinctly classify them as electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) or e-cigarettes
- It is important to understand how these products are classified and regulated to improve public health surveillance and evaluation
Objective

- Describe national policies that classify and/or regulate e-cigarettes in African countries
Methods

Global e-cigarette policy scan

1. Collect Information
   Through media surveillance & generating in-country expert contacts

2. Expert Interaction
   Direct, regular email correspondence with in-country representatives to identify relevant policies

3. Classify Policies
   IGTC staff review policies and identify the country's e-cigarette classification system & what regulations are in place to control them

4. Conduct Review
   In-country experts review and approve policy analyses and classifications
Categorizations

1. Regulatory Mechanisms
   - Law/decree/resolution/circular/notification, amended legislation, existing legislation

2. Product Classifications
   - Tobacco products (imitation, derivative, substitute), medicinal/pharmaceutical products, consumer products, ENDS/e-cigarettes, poison/hazardous substances

3. Policy Domains
   - Minimum age, sale, marketing, packaging, product regulation, reporting/notification, clean air, tax
## Key Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Classifications</th>
<th>Policy Domains</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advertising, Promotion &amp; Sponsorship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Gambia</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritius</td>
<td>Tobacco (imitation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>Tobacco product</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seychelles</td>
<td>Tobacco (imitation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Medicinal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>Tobacco (derivative)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>ENDS</td>
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</tbody>
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*Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health*
**Limitations**

**Limited Information**

The policy landscape presented here was limited to what information was reported by the country contacts identified.

**Missing Contacts**

One challenge with the e-cigarette policy scan is finding contacts who can provide policy information and verify conclusions drawn.

**Incomplete Landscape**

It is possible that other countries in Africa have e-cigarette policies that are not presented here.
Conclusions

Information on 7 of the 54 African countries was part of the e-cigarette policy scan

- 4 of the 7 countries (The Gambia, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Uganda) restricted the sale and distribution of e-cigarettes
- South Africa only allowed e-cigarettes as medicinal products
- Senegal and Togo allowed the sale/distribution of e-cigarettes, but both have restrictions on advertising, promotions, and sponsorships
- Togo was the only country with minimum age, tax, and clean air policies
- No countries had policies regarding child safe packaging, HWLs, ingredients/flavors, nicotine volume/concentration, reporting/notification, safety/hygiene, trademarks
Future Considerations

Frequent and sustained monitoring of the status of e-cigarette policies in Africa is necessary to track ever changing product and policy landscapes to support public health goals.

Why it matters: Monitoring can help public health practitioners understand the impacts of different policies and thus inform whether policies need to be adjusted in order to meet tobacco control goals.
Thank you!