



## **PARALLEL SESSION 1.3**

**THE COMMERCIAL DETERMINANTS OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**



## | BACKGROUND

Key risk factors of NCDs are strongly associated with patterns of consumption and easy access to unhealthy products. Corporate influence is usually exerted through five main channels: increasing control over production and investment by large corporates; increasing control over marketing, particularly marketing to children, to increase the appeal and acceptability of unhealthy products; lobbying, which can negatively influence policies related to plain packaging and minimum drinking ages; corporate social responsibility strategies, to enhance positive image and extensive supply chains to exert influence all over the world.

From the NCD perspective, health outcomes are determined by influencing the social environment in which people live and work: the availability, cultural practices and prices of unhealthy products. Hence, the rise of non-communicable diseases is a manifestation of a global economic system that currently prioritises wealth creation over health creation. Many problems and solutions to address the risk factors lie outside the health sector, in the domains of finance, trade and investment policies.

Commercial determinants of health are a sub-set of the social determinants of health with which they interact, such as education, occupation, income, ethnicity, race, access to healthcare and structural determinants (socio-economic and political context) and affect individuals throughout the life course, as they shape disease risk factors and ultimately disease across the life span. The life-course approach to analysing the social determinants also provides an opportunity to identify potential entry points for action.

This session will entail a detailed analysis of the key commercial drivers of NCDs. It will present the main strategies and approaches used by the private sector to promote choices detrimental to health. These will include marketing, trade and foreign direct investment. The session will also examine the role played by different institutions in facilitating or regulating these, especially Governments, as well as other stakeholders including multilateral organizations and civil society.

## | OBJECTIVES

- To analyse the role industry plays in the commercial determinants of NCDs, including food/beverage, tobacco, alcohol and extractive industries
- To showcase a few exemplary interventions that have successfully addressed selected commercial determinants (E.g. regulation of marketing, including to children, and labelling of sugary beverages, unhealthy foods, tobacco and alcohol; enactment of regulations to contain pollution from mines, power plants, factories and cars).

Some of the questions to address may include:

- What are the commercial drivers influencing the risk factors of NCDs in different contexts? What is the role of industry (e.g. food and beverage, tobacco, alcohol, extractive industries) in influencing the commercial determinants?
- What are the common strategies of marketing to children and adolescents (e.g. particularly digital marketing) and mechanisms to reduce exposure to NCD risk factors, notably alcohol, tobacco and unhealthy foods and beverages?
- How have governments engaged with industry to mitigate the risk to health and enhance public health benefits? What has worked and what has not?
- What is the role played by different institutions in facilitating or regulating the commercial determinants, including Governments, and other stakeholders such as WTO, multilateral organizations and civil society?





Speaker

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Aadielah Maker Diedericks has a Masters in Community Health from UNSW, Sydney; is a public health advocate with experience in developing and producing edutainment and multi-media interventions, training, social mobilisation and campaign management. She has worked in the civil society sector for over 25 years in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, HIV and AIDS, gender and alcohol. She managed the award winning Soul Buddyz programme and Soul City Phuzo Wise campaign. Currently, she is coordinating the Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance. SAAPA is a platform for civil society organisations across 8 countries – Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe - lobbying for health promoting evidence based alcohol policies. At regional level, SAAPA focus on promoting alcohol as a development issue impacting across sectors. A key strategy is to lobby the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to include alcohol in its agenda in order to influence governments within the region. Through SAAPA's efforts Malawi (2017) and Zambia (2018) has adopted National Alcohol Policies. In 2017 SAAPA in South Africa successfully mobilised civil society to stop SAB's "Beers for Africa" marketing campaign. The focus in 2018 in South Africa is to mobilise government to release the Control of Marketing of Alcoholic Beverages Bill of 2013, which has not been released to the public for comment for 5 years. To this end, SAAPA has initiated an "END ALCOHOL AVDERTISING SPORT" campaign, similar to a campaign in Australia. SAAPA also successfully made a submission to the UN Commission on Cultural, Social and Economic Rights on the right to participation and consultation in the absence of the South African government making available the Control Bill to the public for comment.

