

Box 1 Prioritized recommendations and best buys for stronger and sustained tobacco control in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries

1. Introduce and enforce smoking bans in public places. The ban should include all enclosed public places and workplaces, as well as public transport and work vehicles.
2. Call upon the countries of the GCC to increase current national expenditure on tobacco control and scrutinize fiscal policy to impose heavy taxation on tobacco and its products.
3. Affirm the importance of activation of national plans, programmes and policies with an emphasis on vulnerable populations (women and children).
4. Strengthen health systems for treating tobacco dependence in primary care by building capacity for tobacco control and invest in human resources for health training for smoking cessation, as part of primary care.
5. Introduce smoking cessation services and promote public participation for active involvement.