Official Statement
Kristina Sperkova
International President

Addressing:
World Health Assembly 71
Geneva, Switzerland
Agenda item 11.7

IOGT International Official Statement
World Health Assembly 2018
11.7 Preparation for the third High-Level Meeting
of the General Assembly on the Prevention and
Control of Non-Communicable Diseases   **22.05.2018**

Honorable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

We call on Member States to ensure that their governments are represented at the forthcoming High Level Meeting and at the interactive civil society hearing in July. Involvement at the highest political level is critical for tackling the NCDs tsunami.

NCDs, including mental ill-health and the four main risk factors, are the social justice and sustainable development issue of our time. Alcohol related harm alone adversely affects 13 of 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, IOGT International calls on Member States to commit to action in three key areas to turn the tide on NCDs:

Firstly, adopt health-promoting fiscal policies. Health promotion taxes are triple-win measures as they reduce harm, promote health and raise domestic resources. This is scientifically sound, morally right, and economically smart. For example, investing $1 in the alcohol policy best buys yields a return of $9.

Secondly, pivot to prevention: Prevention and health promotion should become the corner stones of the NCDs response, as they are actually pre-

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Klara Södra Kyrkogata 20
SE-11152 Stockholm
Sweden

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T: +46 721 555 036
info@iogt.org
www.iogt.org

requisites for strong and resilient health systems in particular and sustainable development in general.

Thirdly, address commercial determinants of health and protect progress on NCDs and their risk factors from fundamental conflicts of interest, undue influence and incompatible partnerships. The presence of the alcohol industry at the Montevideo conference is highly problematic and lead to the omission of alcohol taxation from the Montevideo roadmap.

In IOGT International, our members look forward to supporting their governments in the preparations for the UNHLM and in joint efforts to prevent and control NCDs through curbing alcohol harm.

I thank you for your attention.

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