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Addressing:
World Health Assembly 71
Geneva, Switzerland
Agenda item 11.8

**IOGT International Official Statement
World Health Assembly 2018
11.8 Preparation for the High-Level Meeting
of the General Assembly on Ending Tuberculosis**

22.05.2018

Thank you for the opportunity to address you briefly.

We welcome the first UN High-level meeting on Tuberculosis, one day before the High-level Meeting on NCDs. Tuberculosis and NCDs have a common, major risk factor: alcohol.

Evidence shows that alcohol use, alcohol dosage and alcohol-related problems are all increasing the risk of tuberculosis. In fact, alcohol use increases the risk of TB threefold. It is also a strong risk factor for poor TB treatment adherence.

IOGT International calls on member states to increase investments in the health care system's capacity to identify and address co-morbidities. This will help to close the treatment gap and to provide comprehensive care packages.

A comprehensive and integrated approach to ending TB should include measures addressing alcohol as a risk factor: Integrating prevention with treatment services, addressing the social and commercial determinants of health, and implementing the alcohol policy best buys.

Focusing on cross-cutting risk factors and co-morbidities, like alcohol and alcohol use disorder, reaps benefits across the sustainable development goals.

I thank you for your attention.

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Official Statement
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