

**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

Honorable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. IOGT International welcomes the first United Nations High-level meeting on Tuberculosis, one day before the UN 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 associated with an increased risk of tuberculosis. In fact, alcohol use increases the risk of TB threefold, and is also a strong risk factor for poor TB treatment adherence.

As for NCDs, alcohol is an important population level risk factor for TB. This shows that a focus on addressing cross-cutting risk factors and co-morbidities, like alcohol and alcohol use disorders, reaps co-benefits across different public health and sustainable development issues.

IOGT International therefore encourages the UN system and Member States to make the most of both high-level meetings, as a unique opportunity to present a 'One Health' approach that demonstrates co-benefit solutions such as alcohol policy best buy interventions, integrating prevention with treatment and rehabilitation services, and addressing the social and commercial determinants of health.

As a member of the Stop TB Partnership, we welcome the Report of the Director General. We appreciate WHO's leadership and efforts towards Tuberculosis control.

A comprehensive and integrated approach to ending TB should include measures addressing alcohol as a TB risk factor.

IOGT International calls on member states to increase investments in the health care system's capacity to identify and address co-morbidities and in this way both close the treatment gap and providing comprehensive care packages.

IOGT International stands ready to extend our expertise and network in communities around the world to assist in further efforts towards ending TB.

I thank you for your attention.

--- END