

IOGT International Official Statement

World Health Assembly 2018

11.1 Draft 13th General Program of Work 2019-2023

22.05.2018

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

IOGT International commends Dr Tedros and WHO for the inclusive process in which the GPW consultations were conducted. We support the GPW's clarion call for action on the three strategic priorities to ensure the SDGs are achieved. We also support the overall approach to health promotion for **healthy** long lives and the inclusion of the platform to prevent NCDs and promote mental health.

In the implementation of GPW a crucial aspect is to comprehensively tackle alcohol-related harm as cross-cutting obstacle in **all** three strategic priorities. Alcohol adversely affects 13 of 17 SDGs. It's a major risk factor for NCDs, infectious diseases like HIV/ AIDS and tuberculosis, and violence against women and children.

We call on WHO and Member States to make alcohol-related harm and the alcohol policy best buy interventions the priority they should be.

Alcohol is a risk factor to human capital development and the alcohol policy best buys are evidence-based measures to improve human capital. Screening

1

and brief interventions for alcohol use disorders are important cornerstones in efforts to promote mental health.

Finally we want to emphasize that not all partnerships are conducive to the vision and mission of WHO, and the goals of the GPW. Safeguarding against incompatible partnerships with private sector entities such as the alcohol industry that have a fundamental conflict of interest is essential for GPW success.

We encourage adoption of the GPW and our members are ready to help reach the triple billion target.

I thank you for your attention.

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