

IOGT International Official Statement UN Interactive Hearing on NCDs

Panel 1: Scaling up action for the prevention and control of NCDs 05.07.2018

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today, on behalf of the members of IOGT International.

With regard to specific priorities, we would like to highlight the urgency of making the alcohol policy best buys the priority they should be.

We know three things:

- Alcohol is a major obstacle to sustainable development, adversely affecting 13 of 17 SDGs.
- Alcohol is also a major risk factor for NCDs and mental ill-health. There are strong links between alcohol and cancer, cardiovascular disease, liver disease, pancreatitis, diabetes and mental health conditions.
- And alcohol harm hurts vulnerable populations the most.

But the alcohol policy best buys hold considerable and largely untapped potential to promote health and development and to protect especially vulnerable groups like children and youth, women and people in deprived and marginalized communities. For example, a \$1 investment in the alcohol policy best buy measures generates a return of \$9 dollars.

I thank you for your attention.

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