



**IOGT International Official Statement  
WHA72 Agenda item 11.1  
Proposed Program Budget**

**21.05.2019**

Honorable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates, I thank you for the opportunity to address you today, on behalf of IOGT International.

We commend the Secretariat for highlighting the need to support countries in developing and implementing health promoting fiscal measures, like alcohol taxation, to step up leadership to make progress on restricting alcohol advertising and to produce global public health goods in the field of alcohol control policies. From our work in the field, we know there is **substantial and growing demand** from Member States **for technical assistance** in formulating and implementing the alcohol policy best buys, **especially alcohol taxation**.

In addition, a recent landmark study in The Lancet projected that global targets to reduce alcohol use and related harm will remain out of reach if action is not stepped up.

That is why we are **concerned to see a further reduction of funding allocated for WHO's mental health and substance abuse work**. Since the adoption of the WHO Global Alcohol Strategy almost a decade ago, resources allocated have declined, not increased.

We therefore call on WHO and Member States to reverse this trend and to **allocate adequate resources, to make alcohol policy the priority it should be**, commensurate with the burden alcohol harm causes.

Our second serious concern is a proposal on page 74 in document A72/4. The dialogue with the alcohol industry should not be framed as a multi-stakeholder partnership. This **jeopardizes WHO's credibility** and ability to exercise its global normative leadership role. Engagement with the alcohol industry should by all means **remain limited to their core roles** as stipulated by the WHO Global



Alcohol Strategy. We urge the Secretariat and Member States to **reconsider and rephrase**.

As the premier global network for alcohol prevention and control, IOGT International pledges to **continue and increase our support** to build technical capacity in countries for the implementation of the alcohol policy best buys as critical tools to help achieve the triple billion target.

I thank you for your attention.

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