

IOGT International Official Statement

RC72 Agenda item 10

Governing body matters

02.09.2019

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

We thank and commend the Secretariat for another excellent working paper. As the **premier global network for alcohol prevention and control**, we also must commend and thank the South-East Asia Region for your leadership at the global level. Alcohol harm destroys people, families and communities and is a global epidemic. Nevertheless, it is often forgotten or ignored.

But at this year's World Health Assembly alcohol policy took center stage – thanks to the leadership of this region.

Now there is much needed momentum and high-level attention.

As did the working paper, **IOGT International wants to underline the importance of the review process of the WHO Global Alcohol Strategy**. But one dimension is missing: it's not only about reviewing the Global Alcohol Strategy and the progress made over the last ten years. **It is also about showing the way forward.**

For the members of IOGT International the adoption of the WHO Global Alcohol Strategy was a historic achievement. Unfortunately the lack of significant progress and in some regions even trends of increasing alcohol use and harm clearly show that **the Global Alcohol Strategy has not been sufficient in turning the tide on the global burden of alcohol**. Stronger instruments, more resources and better protections against the alcohol industry are needed.

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Official Statement
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For IOGT International the **way forward should therefore consist of formulating and adopting a Framework Convention on Alcohol Control**, similar to the one in tobacco.

A small step on the way is to ensure this important alcohol policy discussion can be held under a **stand-alone, substantive agenda item at the WHO governing bodies in 2020**. It is time that alcohol policy becomes the priority it should be.

Another important aspect is to take the alcohol policy conversation to the United Nations in New York. **IOGT International invites Member States to collaborate more closely in mainstreaming alcohol policy considerations** into important agendas such as child rights, women's rights and sustainable development.

In these efforts, IOGT International stands ready to continue and increase our support for WHO and Member States on global, regional and national levels.

I thank you for your attention.

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