



**IOGT International Official Statement
RC69 Agenda item 14
Accelerating the Response to NCDs in Line with the
Political Declaration of the UNGA HLM on NCDs**

19.08.2019

Honorable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates, I thank you for the opportunity to address you on behalf of IOGT International, supported by the East African Alcohol Policy Alliance.

IOGT International commends the Secretariat for the report, the clarity in the challenges outlined and the comprehensive set of actions proposed.

The report paints a gloomy picture. **Not enough is being done, especially in terms of tackling NCDs risk factors, such as alcohol.** Alcohol is a major obstacle to sustainable development, **adversely affecting 13 of 17 SDGs.** Alcohol is a serious – and in many African countries the biggest - NCDs risk factor, fueling cancer, heart, disease, diabetes, and mental ill-health.

We call on you to **make the alcohol policy the priority they should be!**

Policy solutions and high-impact, cost-effective interventions are at hand. IOGT International would like to emphasize three key elements for the way forward:

1. We call on Member States to **revive the work on the regional alcohol strategy.**
2. We are asking for a **status report on the implementation of the regional alcohol strategy to be discussed at the RCM70 in 2020.** And we are calling for the Framework to implement the regional alcohol strategy to be updated and finally put into action.
3. At WHO on all levels, **more staffing with more technical expertise** is absolutely crucial to support Member States in tackling alcohol harm as the priority it should be.



Action on alcohol policy holds considerable and largely untapped potential to promote health and development across the region 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.**

It is also urgent to better curb the corrosive and exploitative activities and political interference of the alcohol industry on our continent.

IOGT International is ready to support increased commitment and action by WHO and governments on all levels.

I thank you for your attention.

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