



**IOGT International Official Statement
RC69 Agenda item 15.3
Progress Report on Implementation of
Regional Strategy for Cancer Prevention and control**

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.

We commend the Secretariat for the report and feel encouraged by declining youth exposure to tobacco across our region. At the same time, we regret to point out that the report does not mention the word “alcohol” even once, despite the fact that the 2008 Cancer Prevention and Control Strategy lists tobacco AND alcohol use as “the main factors contributing to the increasing incidences of cancer in the African region”.

This omission is worrying because the total number of cancer cases and deaths is increasing in the region, with alcohol use fueling the problem. Alcohol causes 7 types of cancer and there is no safe limit of alcohol consumption.

We commend African First Ladies who called for alcohol and tobacco taxation increases to tackle cancer, this July at the AU summit in Niger.

In this spirit, we urge governments to adopt health-promoting fiscal policies. Health promotion taxes, like alcohol taxation, are triple-win measures as they reduce harm, promote health and raise domestic resources for investing in cancer prevention. This is scientifically sound, morally right, and economically smart.

Population and political awareness is still worryingly low. That is why we propose a WHO regional consultation meeting on alcohol and cancer – to assess the



latest evidence, promote public awareness campaigns and counter alcohol industry myths about the real harm of their products.

Finally, we are inspired by the effects of the FCTC in tobacco cessation, curbing the tobacco industry, protecting youth and promoting the human right to health. It is time for African leaders to advocate for a Framework Convention on Alcohol Control in order to make similar progress, for example in reducing the alcohol-fueled cancer burden.

I thank you for your attention.

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