



IOGT International Official Statement

RC69 Agenda item 5(j)

Progress report on the roadmap to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

19.09.2019

Honorable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates, I thank you for the opportunity to address you on behalf of IOGT International and our 46 Member Organizations from 21 countries of the European region.

At the World Health Assembly this May, Romania delivered a statement on behalf of the EU on agenda item "implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" - **clearly addressing alcohol-related harm as obstacle to development**, calling for more action to address well documented gaps.

13 of 17 SDGs and more than 50 SDG targets are adversely affected by alcohol. Taking systematic action therefore promises substantial co-benefits across the 2030 Agenda. The SDGs clearly require a system change towards preventing problems from occurring and expanding. New Eurostat data shows that alcohol is one of the top preventable killers in Europe, disproportionately affecting young people and increasingly harming older people in Europe.

As such **the new WHO SAFER initiative provides an excellent toolbox for a life-course approach**, through five cost-effective and scientifically proven interventions.

Especially alcohol taxation has been shown to directly help achieve at least 11 SDGs. It is the **single most impactful alcohol policy measure** and yet recent WHO data shows that pricing policies remain the lowest priority across our region.

Given the significant **cross-sectorial benefits**, the potential for **domestic resource mobilization**, the substantial **return on investment**, the **unimpeachable evidence-base** for the alcohol policy best buys and given the heavy burden of alcohol harm across



the life-course, **IOGT International urges** Member States and WHO in our region to **make action on preventing and reducing alcohol-related harm the priority it should be.**

We remain committed to support WHO and Member States to achieve health and development for all through the alcohol policy best buys.

I thank you for your attention.

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