



**IOGT International Official Statement
RC72 Agenda item 7.2
Program Budget 2020-2021**

02.09.2019

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

The IOGT International members in South-East Asia welcome the new focus on country delivery and impact. And we commend the Secretariat for a detailed working paper outlining the impressive work done so far and the way forward.

IOGT International strongly supports the priority given by Member States to preventing and reducing health risk factors such as alcohol and tobacco.

Our 19 Member Organizations from 5 countries of the South-East Asian region are deeply concerned about findings published in The Lancet earlier this year projecting **further increases in alcohol consumption across the region**. It means that our governments' targets to reduce alcohol use and related harm will remain out of reach if action is not accelerated. And it means that **alcohol's relative contribution to death and disease in the region will increase** in coming years.

Awareness of this health and development threat is a good and necessary start. We also welcome that risk factor reduction is a flagship program in our region. But clearly, more can and must be done. Therefore, IOGT International would like to highlight the following solutions:

- 1) Prioritize and mainstream action on health risk factors across all three triple billion targets; preventing and reducing alcohol harm fosters community resilience, protects human capital and promotes emergency readiness and it eases the burden on the healthcare system.
- 2) Ensure adequate funding for the work to address alcohol and other health risk factors; in light of evidence showing that for every \$1 invested in the alcohol policy best buys, there is a return of \$9 on that investment,



allocating adequate funding is economically smart and scientifically sound for promoting health and development.

- 3) Strengthen technical capacity at the country level; IOGT members see in our work across the region that there is **substantial and growing demand for technical assistance regarding the alcohol policy best buys** and protection against alcohol industry interference.

Budget allocation at the Secretariat and country level, the country workplans, as well as the results and indicator framework of the GPW13 should all reflect the urgent need to do more and better in alcohol policy formulation and implementation.

I thank you for your attention.

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