IOGT International Official Statement
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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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