

**IOGT International Official Statement  
RC72 Agenda item 8.1  
Annual report on monitoring progress on UHC and  
health-related SDGs**

**02.09.2019**

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

We commend the Secretariat for a detailed analysis of positive and negative trends, including NCDs and health risk factors.

IOGT International would like to offer the following three solutions to help accelerate action to reach health and development for all by 2030 in our region:

- Institute a pivot to prevention of health risk factors;
- Enable on the provision of early identification and comprehensive care packages addressing co- and multi-morbidities; and
- Focus on health spending as investments.

Firstly, preventing health problems from occurring or expanding is by far the best approach to reaching health for all – especially considering the ever-increasing burden of health risk factors. For instance, **alcohol is adversely affecting 13 of 17 SDGs and places a massive burden on health systems.** But alcohol and tobacco prevention helps achieve multiple SDGs, including UHC. **Prevention should therefore feature more strongly in efforts to reach UHC and the health-related SDGs.**

Secondly, enabling early identification of health harmful behavior, such as alcohol use disorders or addiction through primary health care remains an important, but under-utilized tool. Empowering health workers to identify, help and support people affected by health risk factors is critical and collaboration



with civil society promises advancement in the provision of much needed care, especially when people suffer from co- and multi-morbidities.

Thirdly, **health spending is not an expenditure but an investment in human capital, community resilience and thriving societies and economies.** IOGT International calls on governments to shift their approach and focus on health spending as investments.

Resources for these three elements are available through leveraging **health promotion taxation, like alcohol and tobacco taxes.** They hold massive potential for achieving UHC and the SDGs.

We **call on WHO and our governments to embrace these three critical solutions** to accelerate progress towards health and development for all. IOGT International remains committed to partner with WHO and Member States to help achieve this.

I thank you for your attention.

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