



**IOGT International Official Statement
RC72 Agenda item 9.6
Colombo Declaration on strengthening health systems
to accelerate delivery of NCDs services at the PHC level**

02.09.2019

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

We welcome the excellent progress report and commend the Secretariat for a detailed analysis of the progress made, remaining challenges and the way forward.

Our members across the region and around the world hold the Colombo Declaration to be a **landmark achievement** in the response to the NCDs epidemic.

Therefore, we **call on Member States to live up to the promise and potential of the Colombo Declaration in its entirety.**

IOGT International welcomes and supports the measure of “building a generation of NCD managers and leaders in multisectoral agencies”. This generation **must be equipped with state-of-the-art knowledge about the myths and realities of NCDs risk factors.** To date these skills are widely lacking.

Therefore, IOGT International calls on WHO and Member States to partner with civil society in **ensuring literacy about risk factors and their corporate drivers.**

Furthermore, we note with concern that two challenges outlined address “low financing” and “inadequate budgets” for NCDs prevention and control.

But resources can be made available through leveraging health promotion taxes, as Thailand is demonstrating. Already in 2010, the World Health Report said:



“Raising taxes on alcohol to 40% of the retail price could have an even bigger impact [than a 50% increase in tobacco taxation].

“Estimates for 12 low-income countries show that **consumption levels would fall by more than 10%, while tax revenues would more than triple** to a level amounting to 38% of total health spending in those countries. “

Alcohol taxation is a triple win measure. It reduces alcohol consumption and related harm. It helps raise domestic resources for NCDs prevention and control. And it helps promote health and development for all.

The second commitment of the Colombo Declaration is adequate and efficient resource mobilization, including **dedicated taxation of tobacco and alcohol**. IOGT International urges Member States to realize this important commitment by **making dedicated alcohol taxation a priority**.

On regional and global level IOGT International invites Member States to **join our global initiative for alcohol taxation to finance health and development**.

I thank you for your attention.

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