



**IOGT International Official Statement  
RC69 Agenda item 9  
Progress Report on the  
Implementation of the Transformation Agenda**

**19.08.2019**

Honorable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates, I thank you for the opportunity to address you on behalf of IOGT International and our 53 Member Organizations from 21 African countries. This statement is supported by the East African Alcohol Policy Alliance.

We congratulate the Regional Office for impressive progress made with the implementation of the transformation agenda. We are the people that engage on social media, collaborate with country offices, and galvanize support from international partners. As such we have concrete insights regarding the meaning of the transformation agenda on the ground.

We strongly support **the country focus approach for greater impact**. At the same time, we lack explanation of how the **Regional Office will respond to technical capacity needs that Member States have expressed** repeatedly, for example regarding health promotion taxation such as alcohol taxes.

We also support the effort to **broaden the engagement with partners**. But we are **deeply concerned about health harmful industries**. The revelations of the book "Heineken in Africa" should compel the Regional Office to **increase efforts in support of Member States for safeguarding against conflicts of interest and industry interference**.

Thirdly, we strongly support the **prioritization of common areas towards achieving UHC**. We urge Member States and the Regional Office to step up action in **tackling health risk factors, like alcohol**, through the policy best buys. They are currently under-prioritized, for instance with little technical expertise on alcohol in the regional and country offices. But evidence clearly shows the efficacy of tackling alcohol and other health risk factors in **promoting health**,

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**reducing the burden on the health system** and in **generating resources for investment in public health.**

I thank you for your attention.

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