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**OFFICIAL STATEMENT – WHA 73 RESUMED AGENDA ITEM 11.2:
FOLLOW-UP TO THE HLM OF THE UNGA ON HEALTH-RELATED ISSUES –
POLITICAL DECLARATION OF HLM3 NCDs (WHA73/5) 11.11.2020**

Dear excellencies,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

Movendi International welcomes the report and the actions outlined to accelerate efforts towards reducing the global NCDs burden through addressing alcohol harm.

Much needs to be improved in the work with supporting Member States to implement the WHO Global Alcohol Strategy (GAS).

Our analysis shows that the WHO GAS has been ineffective and inadequate in ensuring alcohol policy becomes the public health priority it should be.

- Most countries, especially LMICs, have not implemented a comprehensive set of alcohol policies.
- No LIC has reported increasing resources for implementing alcohol policy since the WHO GAS was adopted.
- Many countries are failing to implement best buys, with LMICs more likely to have weaker policies.
- Modelling forecasts global targets to reduce alcohol use and related harm will not be met.

In some of its elements the WHO Global Alcohol Strategy is even outdated. One major obstacle to implementation is the alcohol industry. Therefore, WHO should desist with dialogues with Big Alcohol and provide guidance to Member States on how to protect against conflicts of interest and interference by the alcohol industry in public policy making.

It is abundantly clear that the alcohol industry poses a serious threat to all aspects of alcohol policy development, that the alcohol industry is undermining WHO's normative leadership role, attacking scientific knowledge about alcohol harm and policy solutions and seeking to obstruct and interfere in member states' attempts to protect their populations, especially children and youth, from alcohol harm.

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The alcohol industry has amassed a track record of obstruction over the last ten years. Even in the two years since the 3rd High Level Meeting on NCDs we have seen new unethical practices being deployed in contradiction of the political declaration.

The alcohol industry has a fundamental conflict of interest with regard to SDG 3 in general and SDGs 3.4 and 3.5 in particular. The alcohol industry is consistently attacking alcohol policy best buy formulation and implementation, causing doubt about sound science regarding alcohol and NCDs, such as cancer and heart disease and the alcohol industry continues to target and expose children and youth to alcohol promotions.

Communities worldwide call on WHO and Member States to consider the evidence and thus reconsider the role of Big Alcohol in the global response to the NCDs and alcohol burden.

Alcohol adversely affects 14 of 17 SDGs beyond health and NCDs. We call for a whole-of-government and whole-of-UN approach across health, society, economy and development.

I thank you for your attention.

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