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MOVENDI INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT

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WHO EB 148 AGENDA ITEM 6: POLITICAL DECLARATION HLM3/NCDS (EB148/7)

Movendi International welcomes the Director General's report on the Political declaration of the 3rd UN high-level meeting on the prevention and control of NCDs, including Annex 3. However, the members of Movendi International are deeply concerned about the lack of progress towards the target of a 10% reduction in per capita alcohol use; in many countries alcohol consumption is projected to even increase.

As the global alcohol burden, including alcohol-related cancer, cardiovascular disease, obesity, mental ill-health and other NCDs, has remained ignored and under-prioritized, the achievement of both NCDs and SDGs target related to alcohol remain out of reach.

Therefore, we commend WHO's leadership regarding the SAFER initiative. And we commend Member States for last year's EB decision to make alcohol policy a public health priority. Now, we hope that both the Secretariat and our governments alike will follow-up with action, such as implementing the alcohol policy best buys, funding SAFER, and supporting a bold, new action plan to improve the implementation of the WHO Global Alcohol Strategy.

Working in communities around the world, we are deeply concerned by the impact of COVID-19 on the alcohol harm that people, families, communities and societies experience. This is another reminder of the urgency to scale up alcohol policy action, both to contain the coronavirus pandemic, to tackle the NCDs tsunami and to promote development for all. We urge Member States to:

1. Make alcohol policy the priority it should be and to implement the SAFER technical package in response to the coronavirus pandemic as well as to the NCDs epidemic;
2. Raise and allocate resources commensurate with the burden of the costs of alcohol harm and to invest in the SAFER initiative; and
3. Explore ways towards a legally binding international treaty on alcohol.

Alcohol policy holds vast and largely untapped potential to help turn the tide on NCDs and to help build back better after the pandemic.

Thank you.

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