

IOGT International Official Statement
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Dear Mme Chair, dear distinguished speakers,
Thank you so much.

I also thank and warmly congratulate UNAIDS for this thematic segment, for the speakers that were brought on, who were brilliant and for the background note, that is excellent.

Now, with this inspiration, awareness of evidence and with these stories from communities around the world, please let's get to work. Why does it matter to integrate responses across HIV/ AIDS and mental health, including substance use disorders? It matters for four reasons:

- Sharing resource
- Amplifying impact of our resources and efforts
- Achieving sustainable outcomes, and ultimately
- Promoting and protecting the Human Right to Health and Development for all.

To conceptualize a joint and integrated way forward, we think the prevention triangle that we work with can help us: Policy, awareness and community mobilization – three dimensions that are interconnected.

In policy, the three best buys in alcohol control are crucial. We miss the mention of alcohol taxation in the background note. The integration of alcohol policies with policies to address violence and infectious diseases is important and a joint program of WHO and UNDP is leading the way. Hopefully UNAIDS can join and support that program. Policy is also about facilitating comprehensive care and integrated health services, as Dr Tedros mentioned.



In terms of awareness, there are synergies available to comprehensively tackle stigma associated with different conditions. To focus efforts on health literacy regarding cross-cutting risk factors like harmful substances is urgent in order to promote health. What we must not ignore and what was not yet addressed today are the commercial determinants of health, like the alcohol and tobacco industries, that fuel global health epidemics for their private profit interests. And awareness is important to help improve identification of co-morbidities in health, social and educational services.

And finally, community mobilization is fundamental to underpin the other two dimensions, to jointly promote positive life skills, healthy community norms and peer-led prevention programs as well as peer-led treatment programs.

It is the sincere hope of the members of IOGT International that together we all can move forward on these points to jointly achieve the SDGs.

I thank you for your attention.

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