

Klara Södra Kyrkogata 20
111 52 Stockholm
Sweden

T: +46 721 555 036
info@movendi.ngo
www.movendi.ngo

MOVENDI INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT**15/08/22****WHO AFRICA RCM72 AGENDA ITEM 6****ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RD ON THE WORK IN WHO AFRO
(AFR/RC72/3)**

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

Movendi International commends the Regional Director for the report and for outstanding work in extraordinarily difficult circumstances.

People and communities across the African region are concerned about the harm caused by the alcohol industry. We need more attention to this issue at the highest political level, including at the Regional Committee Meeting.

That's why we call on the Regional Director and Ministers of Health to step up efforts for alcohol policy development in our region.

We need to prioritize alcohol policy the way tobacco control is addressed:

- a new and ambitious framework and initiative for alcohol policy in the African region, with regular reporting and discussion at the regional committee meeting;
- High-level political commitment to the WHO SAFER initiative; and
- Regional collaboration on cross-border alcohol issues.

Last year, Uganda was the first country in the world to launch the SAFER initiative. This year, Kenya, on behalf of all African Union countries provided pivotal leadership towards the unanimous adoption of the WHO Global Alcohol Action Plan. And Ghana provides leadership in the response to NCDs and towards the SDGs. This is just a snapshot of national, regional, and global leadership of countries from the African region.

We call for urgent action to put alcohol policy on the agenda of the Regional Committee Meeting as soon as possible to facilitate much needed momentum for ambitious alcohol policy efforts to promote health and development for all Africans.

--- END