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**MOVENDI INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT****15/08/22****WHO AFRICA RCM72 AGENDA ITEM 8  
FRAMEWORK TO STRENGTHEN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH ACTION PLAN 2013-2030 IN THE  
WHO AFRICAN REGION**

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

Movendi International commends the Secretariat for the report. The report contains strong and important analysis of the alcohol burden in the African region and its contribution to mental ill-health. We share the growing concern about

1. the number of young people in the African region who are consuming alcohol;
2. the rising problem of alcohol use disorder due to the pandemic, and
3. the overall rise in per capita alcohol use.

Movendi International welcomes that priority interventions and actions proposed in the areas of governance and policy, financial and human resources, empowering and engaging communities to raise awareness on mental health conditions and fight stigma and discrimination. We welcome the focus on prevention and the social determinants of mental, neurological, and substance use disorders (MNS).

Unfortunately, among the 12 priority actions only one addresses alcohol.

We are concerned about a big gap in the action on increasing financing for MNS services. Domestic resource mobilization from alcohol excise taxes should be a key intervention, because it has a triple-win effect including:

1. reducing the mental health burden;
2. protecting and promoting the health of children and youth; and
3. raising domestic resources for mental health services and funding of Universal Health Coverage.

We call on the WHO Regional Office in Africa and governments to make alcohol taxation a priority in the efforts to improve mental health and well-being for our people.

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