

Klara Södra Kyrkogata 20
111 52 Stockholm, Sweden

Kristina Sperkova
International President
Movendi International

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

MOVENDI INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT

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WHA76 AGENDA ITEM 13.1

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (A76/6 A76/7 Rev.1)

Thank you Madame Chair,

Alcohol harm is massive and burdens health systems severely. For example, globally, alcohol contributes to 20% of injuries in emergency department presentations. In some low- and middle-income countries 1 in 5 hospital beds are occupied due to alcohol harm.

Costs due to pervasive alcohol harm undermine the strength, resilience, and capacity of health systems to provide care, prevent harm, and promote health.

That's why alcohol policy in general and alcohol taxation in particular are powerful tools to help reach health for all by increasing fiscal space and reducing avoidable healthcare burden and spending.

Funding people-centered primary healthcare through alcohol taxes is an important tool that needs to receive greater attention. Country best practices on how to improve health system functioning through alcohol policy exist and should be integral part of the UHC discussions going forward.

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