

MOVENDI INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT

31/08/23

WHO AFRICA RCM73 AGENDA ITEM 13

**STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PROTECTION AND RESILIENCE:
REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 2023–2030 IN
THE WHO AFRICAN REGION (AFR/RC73/9 AND AFR/RC73/WP3)**

Thank you, Honorable chairperson.

Movendi International commends the Secretariat for the report and welcomes the strategy for community engagement.

Community empowerment is driving alcohol policy progress across the African region – helping prevent and reduce alcohol harm, protect families financially and ultimately reduce out-of-pocket payments.

We're concerned that the strategy does not highlight alcohol harm as a major burden on healthcare. Alcohol is a significant obstacle to achieving universal health coverage.

The WHO Tracking Universal Health Coverage 2022 report recommends taxation as one of the most sustainable sources of financing for UHC.

We call on the Secretariat and Member States to:

1. Adequately invest in alcohol prevention measures, especially increasing attention to raising alcohol taxation as a key component of the strategy,
2. Acknowledge the fact that the alcohol policy best buys would strengthen community protection, and
3. Provide more technical assistance to Member States to implement effective tax measures to reduce alcohol affordability at the community level.

Thank you.

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