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Addressing:  
World Health Assembly 71  
Geneva, Switzerland  
Agenda item 11.1

**IOGT International Official Statement  
World Health Assembly 2018  
11.1 Draft 13<sup>th</sup> General Program of Work 2019-2023**

**22.05.2018**

Honorable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

IOGT International commends Dr Tedros and WHO for the inclusive process in which the GPW 13 consultations were conducted. We support the GPW 13's clarion call for action on the three strategic priorities to ensure the SDGs are achieved. We also support the overall approach to health promotion for healthy long lives and the inclusion of the platform to prevent NCDs and promote mental health.

In the implementation of GPW 13 a crucial aspect is to comprehensively tackle alcohol-related harm as cross-cutting obstacle in all three strategic priorities. Alcohol adversely affects 13 of 17 SDGs. It's a major risk factor for NCDs, infectious diseases like HIV/ AIDS and tuberculosis, and violence against women and children. It is the number one risk factor for death and disability in the age group of 15 to 49.

We call on WHO and Member States to make alcohol-related harm and the alcohol policy best buy interventions the priority they should be, in the implementation of GPW 13.

Alcohol is a risk factor to human capital development and the alcohol policy best buys are evidence-based measures to improve human capital. Screening

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and brief interventions for alcohol use disorders are important cornerstones in efforts to promote mental health.

Finally we want to emphasize that not all partnerships are conducive to the vision and mission of WHO, and the goals of the GPW 13. Safeguarding against incompatible partnerships with private sector entities such as the alcohol industry that have a fundamental conflict of interest is essential for GPW 13 success.

The members of IOGT International are ready to play an active role in their communities to help reach the triple billion target.

We encourage adoption of the GPW13 and thank you for your attention.

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