



NCD Alliance



Vital Strategies



World Cancer Research Fund International

**Statement at the 146th Session of the WHO Executive Board,  
3-8 February 2020**

**Agenda item 7.2 – Follow up to the UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs in 2018**

[EB146/7](#), [EB146/7 Add.1](#)

**Evaluation of global strategy to reduce harmful use of alcohol (Annex 3 and Add. 1)**

This statement is delivered by Union for International Cancer Control, supported by NCD Alliance, Vital Strategies & World Cancer Research Fund International.

Despite 10 years of the global alcohol strategy, and attention to cost effective, evidence based measures that effectively reduce alcohol harm - including taxation and restrictions on marketing and availability - action & implementation have been insufficient. Millions of people still die every year unnecessarily due to alcohol, and countless more lives are burdened with its harms every day. Around half of these preventable deaths are from NCDs, including cardiovascular disease, mental health conditions and cancer.

To reduce alcohol harm, save lives and deliver on NCD and SDG targets, we recommend Member States respond in the following ways:

- **Establish an expert working group through EB / WHA** to determine the modus operandi for delivering dramatic reductions in alcohol harm by 2030, including consideration of internationally binding instruments, with reporting and recommendations in 2021.
- **Develop a Global Action Plan on Alcohol (2022-2032) through the WHO Secretariat**, drafted with a view to endorsement by WHA in May 2022. This must:
  - strengthen existing WHO and UN strategies, commitments and recommendations
  - integrate new developments and recommendations of the expert working group
  - emphasise WHO 'Best Buys' for NCDs particularly through the SAFER technical package
  - establish a monitoring framework
  - include guidance and tools for Member States on preventing and managing alcohol industry conflict of interest and interference
  - set out a whole-of-government and inter-agency framework for action and impact across alcohol-related SDGs.
- **Increase resources for the Secretariat and UNIATF to oversee the aforementioned mandates and to provide technical assistance to Member States.**



- Recognising the intense pressure applied by the alcohol industry to governments and Missions, we call on **WHO to cease bi-lateral dialogues with alcohol industry actors and call on Member States to publish public records of any engagement.**