

Accelerating action to reduce the harmful use of alcohol

Draft decision proposed by Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam

(PP1) The Executive Board, having considered the report on the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases,¹ particularly Annex 3, entitled “the Implementation of the global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol,” and the report on the findings of the consultative process on implementation of the global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol and the way forward;²

(PP2) Noting with grave concern that, globally, the harmful use of alcohol causes approximately 3 million deaths every year; despite positive trends of some indicators, the overall burden of disease and injuries attributable to alcohol consumption remains unacceptably high; and emphasizing that there is sufficient evidence for carcinogenicity of alcohol and a causal contribution of the use of alcohol to the development of several types of cancers in humans (ADD REF: WHO Global status report on alcohol and health 2018);

(PP3) Recognizing the continued relevance of the global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol and further recognizing that resources and capacities for its implementation in WHO and some Member States do not correspond to the magnitude of the problems;

(PP4) Expressing deep concern that alcohol marketing, advertising and promotional activity, including through cross-border marketing, targeting youth and adolescents influences their drinking initiation and intensity of drinking (ADD REF: WHO Global status report on alcohol and health 2018);

(PP5) Noting with appreciation the practice of not offering alcoholic beverages in some WHO offices and that this could be applied more widely across the Organization for health promotion,

Decided to request the Director-General:

(OP1) to review the Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol and report to the 166th session of the Executive Board in 2030 for further action;

¹ Document EB146/7.

² Document EB146/7 Add.1.

(OP2) to develop an action plan (2022–2030) to effectively implement the Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol as a public health priority, in consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders, for consideration by the 75th World Health Assembly through the 150th session of the WHO Executive Board in 2022;

(OP3) to develop a technical report on the harmful use of alcohol related to cross-border alcohol marketing, advertising and promotional activities, including those targeting youth and adolescents, before the 150th session of the WHO Executive Board;

(OP4) to adequately resource the work on the harmful use of alcohol.

= = =