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Statement of the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF), supported by  
YHO  
WHO 75th World Health Assembly (WHA), 22nd - 28th May 2022.

**Agenda Item**

**14.1(h) Draft action plan (2022–2030) to effectively implement the global strategy  
to reduce the harmful use of alcohol as a public health priority**

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates,

Since the endorsement of the global plan by the WHA in May 2010, we find no tangible progress in reducing total global alcohol consumption per capita very concerning. Although we recognize the decline in the number of drinkers, mortality from alcohol consumption remains higher than from diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and diabetes.

International Pharmaceutical Students Federation, supported by the International Youth Health Organization, strongly encourages WHO and its Member States to institute a stronger effort to reduce the harmful use of alcohol. IPSF and YHO applaud the draft action plan, and call on Member States to reduce the use of alcohol by the youth through progressive best buys strategies, monitoring of existing legislation, while ensuring meaningful youth engagement at the local, regional and global levels. Additionally, we also call on WHO to declare a statement of disapproval on the involvement of alcohol industry in WHO projects, similar to that of tobacco industry.

Thank you.

Statement of the International Youth Health Organization  
72nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe 12th - 14th September 2022.

**Agenda Item**  
**10. European framework for action on alcohol 2022-2025**

Dear all,

Greetings from the International Youth Health Organization and it is an honour to speak in front of you today.

Youth are the fastest evolving demographic in the world and are vulnerable due to fast changes in their lives. As a society we have a responsibility to provide a healthy, safe and sustainable future and opportunities for all youth worldwide. Young people are often not included in policy development and decision-making processes which is why their needs are, more often than not, neglected in many health initiatives, programs and strategies.

We want to compliment the European framework for including youth in the consultation process but also to outline that it will, if implemented correctly, fully and with accountability of all involved parties, improve health and wellbeing of young people tremendously.

Alcohol consumption causes death and disability very early in life, with approximately 13.5% of total deaths of 20-39 year-olds. Data warns us that young people are losing their lives to a completely preventable cause.

Youth deserve a healthy and alcohol-free future and we should be more proactive towards fighting the myth of “wet culture” by removing normalization and social acceptance of alcohol consumption. This is the biggest challenge in many countries in the region and we should join forces to empower and protect youth but also build capacities across sectors to implement a comprehensive response. We, youth, cannot do it alone, which is why we ask for your commitment to the framework, interdisciplinary approach and cross generational dialogue to tackle these challenges. We need you to take concrete and effective steps to improve alcohol policy at all levels.

We are also inviting all of you to think about the legacy you want to leave for your children and youth. Providing them with an environment to grow up in and age with an effective systemic response towards alcohol harm and consumption is the best gift we can leave to new generations because the right to health is a basic human right and we should never forget it.

Champion the wellbeing of youth by investing in it today.

Thank you.

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