

THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

L'ASSOCIATION MEDICALE MONDIALE, INC
ASOCIACION MEDICA MUNDIAL, INC



World Medical Association Joint Intervention:

International Council of Nurses, ICN

World Dental Federation, FDI

International Pharmaceutical Federation, FIP

World Medical Association, WMA

126th Session of the WHO Executive Board

Geneva, January 2010

Honourable Members of the Executive Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the World Medical Association, the International Council of Nurses, the International Pharmaceutical Federation and the World Dental Federation, which form together the World Health Professional Alliance WHPA. The Alliance represents national associations in more than 150 countries, and the collective views of more than 25 million health professionals.

Health Professionals strongly welcome the Draft Global Strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol and recommend it to the Executive Board and Member States for approval. However, we believe that some of the sections of the strategy should be improved and strengthened. We would like to raise your attention on the following matters:

- Although the strategy acknowledges the responsibility for health-sector leadership on efforts to combat alcohol problems, we believe that the role of health professionals in prevention and treatment interventions of alcohol abuse should have been given more attention, underlining the pivotal role that they can and do play in terms of education, advocacy and research.
- The strategy recommends essential policy interventions regarding price, availability, drink-driving countermeasures and marketing. However, we believe that the proposed measures in these areas often lack necessary substance and could be strengthened.
- We recommend strongly that the role of economic operators in the implementation of the strategy be clearly limited, so that policies and programmes at all levels are developed on the basis of public health interests, independent of commercial influence.

In conclusion, health professionals call on Member State parties to strengthen the text as suggested above and to adopt a global strategy at least as strong as the one proposed. If supported by the necessary additional resources, which we recommend, we believe that the initiative will operate towards the global goal to reduce alcohol abuse and its many harms.

I thank you for your attention

Clarisse Delorme