



**Fifth WHO Forum on Alcohol, Drugs and Addictive Behaviours**

*Aligning efforts, strengthening solidarity and partnerships*

24-26 June 2025

**Reducing alcohol-related harm  
WMA STATEMENT**

The [World Medical Association](#) (WMA) has a long-standing [policy](#) on alcohol, denouncing the extensive medical, psychological and social harm caused by alcohol consumption. It is an important risk factor for non-communicable diseases (NCDs), which is a leading cause of death globally.

Alcohol consumption and its impact on health are influenced by a variety of social determinants, such as socio-economic status, education and cultural norms. Understanding the social determinants related to alcohol consumption provides insight into the root causes of the problem and enables the development of effective and holistic health policies. To that end, the WMA stresses that alcohol consumption must be tackled as part of strategies for the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases (NCDs):

- Prevention, diagnosis and treatment of NCDs should be incorporated into [Universal Health Coverage \(UHC\) Benefit Package](#), with targeted investments in health promotion, primary care, access to essential medicines and evidence-based, equitable and sustainable policies.
- Universal Health Coverage should encompass the implementation of [WHO "Best Buys"](#) for the prevention and control of NCDs, particularly with regard to alcohol control through: taxation and price increases on alcoholic beverages, restrictions on access to alcohol, and bans on alcohol marketing.
- Investment in well-trained, professionally educated workforce with adequate equipment and protection is vital to achieving the global NCD agenda. Without this, efforts to diagnose, treat, prevent and rehabilitate will fail. Qualified health personnel are the cornerstone of resilient and equitable health systems.

To conclude, we reaffirm the absolute necessity to protect public health priorities from commercial interference in order to ensure effective prevention of alcohol-related harm and we reiterate our recommendation to establish a comprehensive global regulatory framework for alcohol, modelled on the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

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