

IOGT International Statement

First informal consultations with stakeholders within the Consultations on the Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda at the Global Level

*Themes and thematic reviews:*

*It has been decided that the HLPF will have a thematic focus reflecting the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, while also conducting thematic reviews of the SDGs. What would be important to keep in mind when deciding on themes? Which kinds of themes would allow the HLPF to carry out meaningful reviews of the SDGs?*

Dear Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the members of IOGT International, I thank you for the opportunity to address you today and to share some of our insights and experiences with you concerning the themes for meaningful reviews of the SDGs.

In Rio 2012 at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development the United Nations system was requested to mainstream the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development throughout its work. Ever since, we have seen some promising best practices, such as the UN Interagency Task Force on NCDs and the UNDP, WHO joint program to address interpersonal violence, the harmful use of alcohol and infectious diseases comprehensively.

In that context, we deem it absolutely essential to keep in mind when deciding review themes the issue of cross-cutting risk factors that pose formidable obstacles to achieving the SDGs.

These cross-cutting risk factors are such that burden a significant number of SDGs. And they are such that negatively impact all three dimensions of sustainable development.

Let me give you an example of a cross-cutting risk factor that we tackle in our work to promote sustainable development in communities around the world: the harmful use of alcohol.

Harm caused by alcohol poses paramount obstacles to the achievement of 12 out of 17 SDGs. And alcohol harm has a negative impact on the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development.

Evidence shows, and I'd be honored to share it with you, that alcohol harm has negative impact on economic productivity in the workplace and on

economic sustainability of societies at large; alcohol harm has emerged as an obstacle to environmental sustainability for example considering water and food security in communities and regions of different parts of the world, both in the global south and north. Socially, alcohol is the most harmful drug, killing one human being every ten seconds, globally.

Such a risk factor cutting across the 12 out of 17 SDGs would be an important review theme. Addressing cross-cutting risk factors would have a number of benefits:

- 1) Provide profound insight into how synergies and created opportunities for comprehensive and cost-effective measures have been harnessed on all levels.
- 2) Allow for better understanding and the potential elimination of counter-productive measures and avert unintended or conflicting impacts, and outcomes.
- 3) Facilitate exchange and boost collaboration across policy areas by highlighting best practices and success stories.
- 4) Analyze how the United Nations system and its entities are optimizing their work according to principles of integration, including breaking silos, enhancing horizontal coordination and coordination across sectors.