**Statement of the Republic of Slovenia**

**75th Session of the World Health Assembly**

**22–28 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

Thank you chair, Slovenia aligns itself with the Statement of the EU.

Let me remind us, that despite the evidence that there is no safe limit, alcohol remains the only dependence-producing substance that is not controlled at the international level. This has prompted calls for a legally binding instrument on alcohol, for example at the side event of the UN High Level Meeting on NCDs in 2018. While there has been no consensus for the necessity of such an international instrument yet, a feasibility study could provide useful insights for further discussion on the matter.

Slovenia welcomes the Draft Action Plan (2022-2030),based on extensive consultative process. While some aspects could be strengthened, the document is well-structured, with effective and cost-effective measures, aiming to improve public health and effectively implement The Global Strategy from 2010.

In support to this important step, Slovenia organized a side event this Monday “Towards Ambitious alcohol policy”, together with Estonia, MOVENDI International and other co-sponsoring countries. Many thanks to all of you participating and contributing.

We are convinced that Action Plan will improve implementation of the global strategy. It will empower all three levels of the WHO

* by advising and supporting Member States in their efforts to reduce alcohol consumption; and
* by providing technical assistance on the implementation of best buy policies and guidance to safeguard alcohol policy-making processes from industry interference.

We should also strengthen the SAFER initiative and improve the global governance of alcohol policy by bringing back the global and regional Focal Point Networks, by starting a Global Leaders’ Group and by organizing a Global Ministerial Conference on alcohol policy.

Thank you for your attention.