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## **MEETING OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS ON PRIORITY AREAS FOR STRENGTHENING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY TO REDUCE THE HARMFUL USE OF ALCOHOL**

VENUE: SALLE B, WHO HEADQUARTERS, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

DATES: 17-18 DECEMBER 2019

### **Scope and purpose**

In 2010, the World Health Assembly, in resolution WHA63.13, endorsed the global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol. It urged Member States to adopt and implement the global strategy and requested the Director-General inter alia to collaborate with and provide support to Member States in strengthening national responses to public health problems caused by the harmful use of alcohol, and to monitor progress in implementing the global strategy.

Since the endorsement of the global strategy, the pace of development and implementation of policies on alcohol has been uneven, and the magnitude of alcohol-attributable disease and social burden continue to be in sharp contrast with the commitments, actions and available resources at all levels to reduce the harmful use of alcohol.

In May 2019, the Seventy-second World Health Assembly, in decision WHA72(11) on follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, requested the Director-General to report to the Seventy-third World Health Assembly in 2020, through the Executive Board, on the implementation of WHO's global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol during the first decade since its endorsement, and the way forward. In response to the request of the Health Assembly, the Secretariat embarked on a broad consultative process, and its findings are summarized in the report by the Director-General to the Executive Board 146<sup>th</sup> session (available at: [http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/EB146/B146\\_7Add1-en.pdf](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB146/B146_7Add1-en.pdf)).

This meeting of technical experts, including members of WHO expert panel on drug dependence and alcohol problems, is organized for in-depth discussions of the current and potential future technical activities implemented by the WHO Secretariat, with support of WHO or under the auspices of WHO to strengthen implementation of the global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol.

Specific objectives of the meeting include:

- Discuss challenges, opportunities and impact of implementation of the global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol and implications for the current and future program activities;
- Discuss the current and advise on potential future program activities to strengthen implementation of the global strategy within the broader policy contexts and WHO strategic priorities with a focus on the following areas:
  - a. Public health advocacy, partnership and dialogue
  - b. Technical support and capacity building
  - c. Production and dissemination of knowledge, including further development of WHO Global Information System on Alcohol and Health (GISAH)
  - d. Resource mobilization.