

13 December 2020

World Health Organization
By online submission

Working document for development of an action plan to strengthen implementation of the Global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol

Dear Sir/Madam

The New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA)¹ endorses the [submission by Alcohol Healthwatch New Zealand](#) (attached) to the World Health Organization on the ‘[Working Document for Development of an Action Plan to strengthen implementation of the Global Strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol](#)’.

Reducing the harm from alcohol is a core area of advocacy for the NZMA.² We have previously called for the development of an international health treaty on alcohol control, similar to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, to support Member States in their actions to protect the health of their populations.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kate Baddock
NZMA Chair

¹ The NZMA is New Zealand’s largest medical organisation, with about 5,000 members from all areas of medicine. The NZMA aims to provide leadership of the medical profession, and to promote professional unity and values, and the health of all New Zealanders. We recognise the principles of te Tiriti o Waitangi and the special obligations to Māori, particularly to ensure equity and active protection. Current disparities in health outcomes between Māori and non-Māori are unacceptable. The NZMA is committed to advocating for policies in health and the social and wider determinants of health that urgently address these disparities and contribute to equity of health outcomes.

² Reducing alcohol-related harm. NZMA Policy Briefing. May 2015. Available from <https://www.nzma.org.nz/policy-briefings/reducing-alcohol-related-harm>