

# WHO's Engagement with Non-State Actors in Reducing the Harmful Use of Alcohol

7<sup>th</sup> European Alcohol Policy Conference, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 23 November 2016



World Health  
Organization

# Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (FENSA)

- The Framework of Engagement with non-State Actors (FENSA) has been approved by resolution WHA 69.10 (2016)
- FENSA regulates WHO's engagement with non-State actors i.e. NGOs, private sector entities, philanthropic foundations and academic institutions.
- FENSA replaces the Principles governing relations between the WHO and non-governmental organizations and Guidelines on interaction with commercial enterprises to achieve health outcomes.

# Rationale: the challenges with Non-State Actors engagement are expected to increase

- In the SDG era WHO's work will become more intersectoral
- In times of internet and social media, reputational controversies can happen rapidly – therefore transparency is the best protection for WHO
- Expectations of the public, Member States and professionals towards WHO are particularly high
- Universities receive increasing proportion of private sector funding for which WHO needs to know the sources and manage potential conflicts of interest.

# Overall objective of FENSA

Strengthen WHO's engagement with non-State actors for clear benefit of public health while protecting WHO from any undue influence, in particular on the processes in setting and applying policies, norms and standards, in order to preserve WHO's integrity, independence, credibility and reputation.



# Role of FENSA

- FENSA provides WHO with the set of policies to strengthen transparency and accountability
  - Establishment of the register of non-State actors in time for the 70<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly
  - Implementation in a coherent and consistent manner across all three levels of the Organization
  - Full operationalization within 2 years
  - Reports on the implementation to the Executive Board annually
- The Secretariat needs to complement the set of policies with operational procedures to further promote meaningful engagements.

# Categories of interaction in which WHO engages with non-State actors

- Participation
  - Meetings of the governing bodies
  - Consultation
  - Hearings
  - Other meetings
- Resources: financial or in-kind contribution (e.g. medicines)
- Evidence
- Advocacy
- Technical collaboration (e.g. capacity building, contributing to the implementation of WHO's policies).



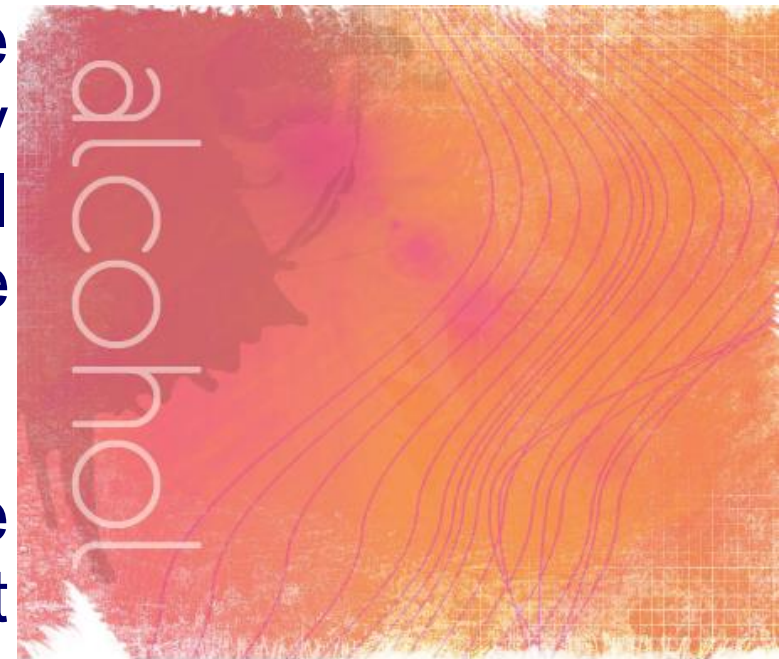
# Conflict of interest

- Arises in circumstances where there is potential for a secondary interest (a vested interest in the outcome of WHO's work in a given area) to unduly influence, or where it may be reasonably perceived to unduly influence, either by the independence or objectivity of professional judgement or actions regarding a primary interest (WHO's work).
- An **institutional conflict of interest** is a situation where WHO's primary interest as reflected in its Constitution may be unduly influenced by the conflicting interest of a non-State actor in a way that affects, or may reasonably be perceived to affect, the independence and objectivity of WHO's work.



# Implementing the Global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol

- Successful implementation of the strategy will require concerted action by Member States, effective global governance and appropriate engagement of all relevant stakeholders.
- All involved parties have the responsibility to act in ways that do not undermine the implementation of public policies and interventions to prevent and reduce harmful use of alcohol.



Global strategy to  
reduce the harmful  
use of alcohol





# Role of "economic operators" in implementation of the Global strategy

- International nongovernmental organizations, professional associations, research institutions and economic operators in the area of alcohol, all have important roles in enhancing the global action, as follows.
- (45d) Economic operators in alcohol production and trade are important players in their role as developers, producers, distributors, marketers and sellers of alcoholic beverages. They are especially encouraged to consider effective ways to prevent and reduce harmful use of alcohol within their core roles mentioned above, including self-regulatory actions and initiatives. They could also contribute by making available data on sales and consumption of alcohol beverages.