The industry Section of the World Wine Trade Group agreed the following statement at its meeting in Auckland, New Zealand (2 March 2005):

WHEREAS, the Industry Sector of the World Wine Trade Group has reviewed the resolution EB115.R5 of 20 January 2005 by the Executive Board of the World Health Organization ("WHO") proposing the adoption of a resolution by the Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly ("WHA"), and

WHEREAS, the Industry Sector is gravely concerned by the process by which the resolution was developed, which resulted in a resolution whose content is not a balanced reflection of the issues of alcoholic beverage consumption, and

WHEREAS, the Industry Sector believes that the issues of health and alcoholic beverage consumption can only benefit from a fair and objective review by WHO, and

WHEREAS, the Industry Sector shares the concerns of WHO over abuses of alcoholic beverage consumption and is working diligently to develop programmes to combat such abuses, and

WHEREAS, the Industry Sector believes that the programmes of WHO would benefit from the learning of the alcoholic beverage industry in the states members of WHO,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Industry Sector requests the Governments members of the World Wine Trade Group to:

CHARGE their representatives at the WHO to express the importance of open dialogue and collaboration with the industry sector of states members of WHO in the discussion and development of WHO's positions on alcoholic beverage consumption;

INFORM the WHO of the industry's facilities and research available to the WHO, through industry consultation and collaboration, to develop reasonable positions based upon scientific evidence regarding the consumption of alcoholic beverages;

SUPPORT the participation and collaboration of the industry sectors of the states members of WHO in the development of WHO resolutions for the WHA relative to the consumption of alcoholic beverages;

OPPOSE resolutions of the WHA, or any subordinate body, where such resolutions are not the product of the collaboration and consultations proposed herein.
2 of 6. The following statement was agreed in the Industry Section meeting at Brussels, Belgium (22-23 March 2012):

Whereas the industry section of the World Wine Trade Group supports efforts to combat the harmful use of alcohol around the world.

Recognizing the important role which the WHO Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol and the UN Political Declaration of the High Level Meeting on NCDs are playing in these efforts we will continue to support their implementation;

The Industry Section of the World Wine Trade Group calls upon governments to promote tailored, country specific and inclusive approaches in reducing harmful use of alcohol while avoiding interventions intended to reduce overall alcohol consumption;

We urge governments to work collaboratively with all stakeholders, including the private sector, to ensure feasible, sustainable strategies that contribute to reductions in the harmful use of alcohol.

3 of 6. The industry Section of the World Wine Trade Group agreed the following statement at its meeting in Auckland, New Zealand (7-9 November, 2012):

Whereas the industry section of the World Wine Trade Group recognises that harmful use of alcohol is a risk factor in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and supports efforts to combat the harmful use of alcohol around the world;

Recognising the WHO Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol and the UN Political Declaration of the High level Meeting on NCDs are the leading policy instruments to reduce harmful use of alcohol, we will continue to support them and their implementation;

Whereas the WHO Global Strategy was a pragmatic approach to dealing with harmful use of alcohol that reflected wide consultation on the practical challenges;

Whereas recently, in the context of WHO’s work on NCDs, some governments and activists have strongly promoted more prescriptive approaches for which the evidence is not conclusive, that may involve unexpected economic and social consequences, and that may be far less effective;

Whereas, such approaches are not aligned with the WHO Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol and potentially constitute unjustified barriers to trade;

In particular, proposed NCD global targets for the reduction of alcohol consumption, rather than the harmful use of alcohol, are poorly targeted and will potentially lead to trade barriers;

Whereas the WHO will discuss the NCD recommendations in January 2013, the Industry Section of the World Wine Trade Group calls upon governments to immediately resist this less effective NCD approach and promote the tailored, country-specific and inclusive WHO Global Alcohol
Strategy approach in reducing the harmful use of alcohol and avoiding proposed NCD interventions focused on reducing overall alcohol consumption;

We urge governments to work collaboratively with all stakeholders, including the private sector, to ensure feasible, sustainable strategies that specifically contribute to reductions in the harmful use of alcohol.

4 of 6. The industry Section of the World Wine Trade Group agreed upon the following statement at its meeting in Brussels, Belgium (21-22 March, 2013):

WWTG Industry statement on Measures to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol

Whereas the industry section of the World Wine Trade Group recognises that harmful use of alcohol is a risk factor in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and supports efforts to combat the harmful use of alcohol around the world;

Recognising the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol and the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) are the leading policy instruments to reduce harmful use of alcohol, we will continue to support them and their implementation;

Whereas the WHO Global Alcohol Strategy was a pragmatic approach to dealing with harmful use of alcohol that reflected wide consultation on the practical challenges;

Whereas in the most recent draft of the WHO Secretariat work on NCDs, some governments and activists have strongly promoted three more prescriptive approaches including excise duty increases, restrictions or bans on alcohol advertising and promotion and restrictions on the availability of retail ed alcohol, for which the evidence is not conclusive, that may involve unexpected economic and social consequences, and that may be far less effective;

Whereas, such approaches are not aligned with the WHO Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol and potentially constitute unjustified barriers to trade;

In particular, proposed NCD global targets for the reduction of alcohol consumption, rather than the harmful use of alcohol, are poorly targeted and will potentially lead to trade barriers;

Whereas Member States and UN Agencies are invited to share their comments in a web-based consultation from 15 until 29 March in response to the updated revised draft WHO Action Plan for NCDs, the Industry Section of the World Wine Trade Group calls upon governments to immediately resist this less effective NCD approach and promote the tailored, country-specific and inclusive WHO Global Alcohol Strategy approach in reducing the harmful use of alcohol and avoiding proposed NCD interventions focused on reducing overall alcohol consumption;

The outcome of the web-based consultation will serve as an input for the WHO Secretariat to conclude the work on the development of the Action Plan and develop a final draft for consideration by Member States at the World Health Assembly (20–28 May).
We urge governments to work collaboratively with all stakeholders, including the private sector, to ensure the WHO Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol unanimously adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2010 and recognised by the UN Political Declaration on NCDs – should be the only intervention listed under the menu of options to reduce the harmful use of alcohol.

5/6 of 6. The industry Section of the World Wine Trade Group agreed upon the following two statements at its meeting in Ottawa, Canada (5-6 October 2016):

**World Health Organization and Codex Alimentarius**

Whereas, the Industry Section of the World Wine Trade Group recognises harmful use of alcohol is a risk factor in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and supports efforts to combat the harmful use of alcohol around the world;

Whereas, the activities of the WHO have been the subject of five previous statements from the Industry Section to the Governments of the WWTG;

Whereas, it has recently become apparent that WHO is intervening in the activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in an unprecedented manner as a means to advance the implementation of World Health Assembly resolutions. For example, the document, CX/ASIA 16/20/11 Add. I, prepared by the WHO, calls for new work to be "undertaken by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling with regards to alcoholic beverages, addressing a claim for "alcohol-free" product, labelling for alcoholic content and energy value, a generic public health warning, restrictions on nutrition and health claims, and possibly advertising (as relevant). These provisions would apply to all alcoholic beverages whether they have been standardized by Codex or not;"

Whereas, this WHO intervention would require the Codex Alimentarius Commission and some of its committees to undertake activities outside of their usual and most appropriate areas of activity and competence.

Whereas, the WHO approach appears to endanger the position of the Codex Alimentarius Commission as a neutral science-based standard setting organization, which could lead to the integrity of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in standard setting and its role within the WTO framework being thrown into doubt.

Whereas the Industry Section of the WWTG is gravely concerned by these developments.

We urge WWTG government representatives to:

- Maintain and strengthen open dialog with their respective health departments on these issues to ensure activities undertaken by WHO are appropriate and science-based;
• Ensure that the historical focus of activity in the Codex Alimentarius Commission is preserved, and does not move away from microbiological and chemical food safety issues and trade facilitation activities into more medical and epidemiological areas that have conventionally been the competence of the WHO itself.

World Health Organization and Non-Communicable Diseases

WWTG industry group welcomes the effort by WHO to reassess the evidence base around interventions that can be used to reduce NCDs by tackling the harmful use of alcohol. A periodic updating of recommended interventions through Appendix 3 of the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2013-2020 (NCD Action Plan) is important in assisting Member States to identify state-of-the-art good practice.

The purpose of Appendix 3, as laid out in the NCD Action Plan, is “to provide information and guidance on effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of interventions based on current evidence,” and to help in expanding the evidence base. Both aspects are important – effectiveness to determine what is likely to work, and cost-effectiveness to assess the cost implications of implementation.

However, the proposed update to Appendix 3, as drafted on 25 July 2016, falls short of this original purpose:

• While the draft includes an updated assessment of cost-effectiveness, it ignores new evidence around the effectiveness of interventions.
• Similarly, while the original text of Appendix 3 identifies “the need to implement a combination of population-side policy interventions and individual interventions,” the revised draft places primary emphasis on regulatory measures.

WWTG Industry Section urges member governments to work together to ensure that the amendments to Appendix 3 of the NCD Action plan provide a balanced and comprehensive assessment of the evidence, that can allow governments of Member States to choose those interventions that offer greatest promise for success in their respective countries.

WWTG Industry Section believes there is room to reevaluate and strengthen the recommendations offered in Appendix 3, to provide for the reduction of the burden of NCDs.