Check-list for effective alcohol policies

An alcohol policy is typically understood as an authoritative decision or document by governments to minimize or prevent alcohol-related harm to individuals and the society. Alcohol policies can, when carefully designed and effectively implemented, contribute towards increased welfare and safety, improved public health and towards social development in nations and communities.



- [ ] 1. A clear statement on the purpose of the policy: Prevention of alcohol-related harm and protection of public health and welfare
- [ ] 2. Alcohol taxation to reduce consumption of alcohol
- [ ] 3. Taxation revenues dedicated for alcohol prevention
- [ ] 4. Minimum legal age for sale and purchase of alcohol (minimum 18 years, preferably 20 or 21)
- [ ] 5. Restrictions on hours and days of sale
- [ ] 6. Licensing of producers and points of sales, including informal producers and outlets.
- [ ] 7. Outlet density restrictions.
- [ ] 8. Government monopoly of retail sales
- [ ] 9. Ban on alcohol promotion and sponsoring (total ban or partial regulations)
- [ ] 10. Low blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limits in road traffic (0.5 or less).
- [ ] 11. Sobriety check-points and random breath-testing.
- [ ] 12. Administrative license suspension or other swift punishment for offenders of legislation on drunken driving
- [ ] 13. creening and brief interventions at primary health care units.
- [ ] 14. Public campaigns to mobilize support for alcohol policies.
- [ ] 15. Programmes to challenge prevailing alcohol expectancies.

- [ ] 16. Training programmes for relevant government officers and professions (doctors, police, teachers, religious leaders, NGO leaders etc).
- [ ] 17. Life-skills education and education on the real effects of alcohol for young people.
- [ ] 18. Support to NGOs involved in alcohol prevention and treatment.
- [ ] 19. System to collect data on alcohol consumption and related harm.
- [ ] 20. A specific authority or unit for implementation and follow-up of the policy and clear aims and obligations

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