

Fra: Anil Soni  
Sendt: onsdag 15. september 2021 15:52  
Til: Øystein Bakke  
Kopi: Karen Hitschke; Tia Jeewa  
Emne: Re: Alcohol in WHO Foundation Gift Acceptance Policy

Dear Øystein,

Thank you for your outreach earlier this year regarding the WHO Foundation (WHOF), and for your important work at the Global Alcohol Policy Alliance.

As a new organization, WHOF welcomes feedback to help us better advance the mission of the World Health Organization (WHO) to achieve Health for All. This year, our focus has been on raising funds for WHO and COVAX to fight COVID-19. We are committed to transparency and will be sharing online in the next month the sources and beneficiaries of funds. This information will be updated regularly.

At the start of the year, we shared online our foundational documents, namely our statutes as a Swiss Foundation and the agreement between WHOF and WHO. As the latter states, WHOF is committed to adhering to the principles of the WHO's Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (FENSA). FENSA specifies two industries for non-engagement: Arms and Tobacco. Accordingly, WHOF will not accept funds from companies from these industries.

A version of WHOF's working Gift Acceptance Policy published earlier this year erroneously and inconsistently referred to the Alcohol industry. This has now been corrected. The correction was not a change in policy, and the policy will continue to reflect the agreement between WHO and WHOF as well as FENSA.

Though Arms and Tobacco are the only industries explicitly restricted under FENSA, this does not imply that the Foundation will accept contributions from any company outside of these industries. We are committed equally to the principles of FENSA and to ensuring that no funds received by WHOF create a conflict of interest or impair the WHO's normative role to hold entities, corporations and member states alike, accountable for how their actions affect health.

Our aim is to ensure that the work of WHOF and the funds we raise advance the mission of WHO and are consistent with its norms, standards, and policies. I look forward to sharing more information in the coming weeks about our activities to date and will continue to welcome feedback on our policies and practices.

Thanks again for your outreach. I hope this note provides helpful feedback to the questions you raised.

With best wishes,  
Anil