German NCD Alliance:

Statement on behalf of the
German NCD Alliance (Deutsche Allianz nichtübertragbare Krankheiten, DANK)
for Panel 3 (Promotion of multisectoral partnerships for the prevention and
control of non-communicable diseases)
of the Interactive Hearing as part of the preparatory process toward the third
High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on NCDs
5 July 2018

The German NCD Alliance is an alliance of 22 medical and scientific organizations
and institutions, one of which is the German Cancer Research Center, where I am
working in tobacco control.

From my 13 years of experience in tobacco control I know the massive lobbying of
the tobacco industry, and I see how strong it is slowing down the implementation of
the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. In fact, the big companies of
alcohol and food industries are using exactly the same arguments and lobbying
tactics as the tobacco industry. They will do everything do prevent effective policies,
to water them down or at least to delay the implementation of regulation – that’s why
they should be treated with the same amount of reserve as the tobacco industry.

The zero draft is very weak on this point. What is needed, are strict principles for the
engagement with the alcohol and food industries that manage conflicts of interest,
ensure transparency, and preclude the influence of these industries on health policy
making in the same way as the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
does for the tobacco industry.

In order to protect heath policy from undue influence of these industries, I urge the
degelates to include in the final Political Declaration these strict principles for the
engagement with the alcohol and food industries.