

## UGANDA ALCOHOL POLICY ALLIANCE (UAPA)



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### THE 5TH UGANDA ALCOHOL POLICY CONFERENCE (UAPC26)

*25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> November 2026*

"Advancing Alcohol Control: Protecting the Present, Securing the Future"

#### Call for Abstracts

The call for abstracts is open for the **2026 Uganda Alcohol Policy Conference (UAPC26)**, which will convene in Kampala, Uganda, at Hotel Africana, on November 25–26, 2026. The event focuses on the theme "Advancing Alcohol Control: Protecting the Present, Securing the Future" and outlines eight specific sub-themes for submissions.

#### **Purpose of the Conference**

The 5th UAPC26 aims to:

- i. **Promote Partnership;** Strengthen coordination and shared responsibility among government agencies, civil society, academia, faith institutions, and the private sector in addressing alcohol harm.
- ii. **Propel Policy Action;** stimulate evidence-based policy development, highlight innovations in alcohol policy change, review, and enforcement to operationalize Uganda's National Alcohol Control Policy and regulation frameworks.
- iii. **Provide a Platform for Research and Learning;** facilitate exchange of scientific evidence, community experiences, and innovations on prevention, regulation, and harm reduction.
- iv. **Prioritize Public Awareness; raise** national consciousness on the health, social, and economic impacts of alcohol and substance use, emphasizing protection of youth and vulnerable populations.
- v. **Promote Productivity and Wellbeing:** Highlight the socio-economic benefits of reducing substance-related harm, including improved workforce productivity, mental health, and family stability.

#### **Conference Tracks**

Authors are invited to submit abstracts categorized under any of the following ten tracks/topics:

#### **Track 1: Clinical Management and Addiction Treatment**

This track focuses on individual-level health interventions, moving from early identification to rehabilitation. *Typical topic areas will include, but not limited to:*

- **Screening, Brief Interventions, and Treatment (SBIT):** Scaling up early-detection protocols in primary healthcare and community settings.
- **Harm Reduction Strategies:** Managing Alcohol Use Disorders (AUD) through compassionate, evidence-based harm reduction methodologies.
- **Mental Health Integration:** Addressing co-occurring psychiatric disorders (e.g., depression, anxiety) alongside alcohol dependence

## **Track 2: Community Systems and Social Determinants of Health**

This track will include studies that investigated the environmental, social, and cultural factors that drive harmful alcohol consumption at the grassroots level. *Typical topic areas will include, but not limited to:*

- **Gender-Based Violence and Harms:** Understanding the correlation between harmful alcohol consumption, compromised household security, and instances of domestic or sexual violence.
- **Youth Protection and Education:** Devising preventative education, life-skills interventions, and establishing safe environments for adolescents.
- **Local Leadership and Grassroots Mobilization:** Empowering civil society, religious institutions, and local governance (e.g., city/district bylaws) to monitor and regulate alcohol in local communities

## **Track 3: Alcohol Related Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Interventions**

*This track will explore the pathophysiological impacts of alcohol on the body and its intersection with disease transmission/ development. Typical topic areas will include, but not limited to:*

- **NCD Prevention and Management:** Tackling alcohol-attributable cancers, cardiovascular diseases, liver cirrhosis, hypertension, and other conditions.
- **Infectious Disease Comorbidities:** Addressing the critical intersection of heavy alcohol use with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (TB) acquisition and treatment adherence.
- **Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health:** Interventions for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) and maternal health risks

## **Track 4: Multi-Sectoral Systems & Partnership Building**

*This track focuses on strengthening inter-agency coordination (government, civil society, faith-based organizations, and academia) for Alcohol and other psychoactive substance harm reduction. Typical topic areas will include, but not limited to:*

- **Coordinating the Whole-of-Society Framework:** Models for bridging the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development (MoGLSD), Ministry of Internal Affairs, other government ministries and agencies, local government authorities, and the private sector.

- **The NDA's Pivotal Role:** Expanding the regulatory scope of the National Drug Authority (NDA) beyond pharmaceuticals to include participating in monitoring, licensing, and management.
- **Integrated Institutional Frameworks:** Operationalizing Uganda's National Alcohol Control Policy and aligning it with international frameworks like the WHO SAFER Initiative.

### **Track 5: Evidence-Based Policy, Laws, Regulation, Enforcement, and Accountability**

*This track discusses the macro-level, "best-buy" policy interventions to curb population-wide alcohol harm, policy development, enforcement mechanisms, and legislative action on alcohol harm reduction. Typical topic areas will include, but not limited to:*

- **Strengthening Regulation:** Policy reviews and legislative innovations aimed at curbing the illegal production, adulteration, and unregulated marketing of alcohol.
- **Compliance and Monitoring:** Mechanisms for the National Drug Authority (NDA) and law enforcement to strictly monitor misuse, enforce blood alcohol limits, regulating distribution, sobriety checkpoints, and other enforcement strategies
- **Fiscal Policies and Taxation:** Examining the socio-economic impacts of pricing, taxation, and marketing bans as deterrents.

### **Track 6: Research, Innovation, and Information Sharing**

*This track will provide a platform for scientific evidence, harm reduction innovations, and community-level monitoring for alcohol harm reduction interventions. Typical topic areas will include, but not limited to:*

- **Data and Surveillance:** Sharing findings on the prevalence, determinants, and health burdens of alcohol in Uganda.
- **Harm Reduction Interventions:** Evaluating the success of local treatments, counseling, and medical interventions for alcohol associated harm.
- **Traditional / local alcohol:** Researching the regulation, compounding/fermentation/distillation, and safety profiles of the non-conventional alcohol.

### **Track 7: Public Awareness and Vulnerable Population Protection**

*This track will contribute efforts that seek to raise national consciousness and prioritizes the protection of the vulnerable populations like the youth. Typical topic areas will include, but not limited to:*

- **Protecting Youth and Vulnerable Groups:** Strategies to prevent early initiation into alcohol drinking and shield youth from aggressive, targeted marketing.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** The role of the National Drug Authority (NDA), media, and civil society in disseminating accurate, evidence-based information.
- **Community Education & Faith Institutions:** Engaging grassroots structures to reduce stigma and change societal norms around alcohol consumption.

### **Track 8: Socio-Economic Wellbeing and Productivity**

*The track will highlight the socio-economic benefits of reducing harm, such as workforce productivity, mental health, and family stability. Typical topic areas will include, but not limited to:*

- **Workforce Productivity:** Evaluating the economic impact of absenteeism, injuries, and lost labour hours attributed to alcohol drinking.
- **Mental Health and Family Stability:** Investigating the correlation between alcohol drinking, domestic trauma, gender-based violence, and mental health challenges.
- **Poverty Alleviation:** Exploring how controlling the accessibility and affordability of alcohol can reduce household economic strain and divert spending toward essential needs

### **Track 9: Road Safety, Workplace Harm, and Productivity Losses**

*The track will highlight Drink Driving Countermeasures, Commercial Drivers & Occupational Hazards, Workplace Harm & Safety measures, and industry influence. Typical topic areas will include, but not limited to:*

- **Drink Driving Countermeasures & Road Safety:** Presentations examining epidemiological crash data, the effectiveness of sobriety checkpoints, and the impact of the WHO's SAFER initiatives (e.g., blood alcohol concentration limits and stricter legislation) on preventing traffic fatalities.
- **Commercial Drivers & Occupational Hazards:** Research on high-risk occupational groups, such as the prevalence of alcohol drinking among commercial transport workers and its impact on occupational safety.
- **Workplace Harm & Safety Policies:** Case studies on developing rigorous, non-discriminatory workplace policies, such as those promoted by the ILO Management of Alcohol-related Issues. Topics can cover hazard identification and creating employee assistance programs (EAPs).
- **Productivity Losses:** Economic analyses measuring absenteeism, high staff turnover, and costly workplace errors linked to "hangover culture" or alcohol-use disorders.
- **Industry Influence:** Critical examinations of the alcohol industry's marketing tactics and its partnerships with road safety NGOs.

### **Track 10: Alcohol, GBV, Child Protection, Mental Health and Trauma**

*The track will highlight the alcohol and associated Syndemics of GBV. Mental health, trauma. Typical topic areas will include, but not limited to:*

- **Syndemics of GBV and Alcohol:** Submissions exploring how harmful alcohol use—often a structural driver of violence—increases the incidence and severity of intimate partner violence (IPV). Includes localized data, such as the intersection of alcohol and GBV among disadvantaged youth in urban and rural areas.
- **Child Protection & Endangerment:** Discussions focusing on how parental or community alcohol abuse exposes children to trauma, neglect, and exploitation. Presentations can highlight policies to interrupt intergenerational cycles of abuse.

- **Mental Health & Syndemics:** Clinical or community-based perspectives on the bidirectional relationship between depression, suicidality, and the co-occurrence of alcohol misuse and violence.
- **Trauma Care & Integrated Interventions:** Presentations outlining effective referral pathways and trauma-informed care protocols for clinical and social workers managing victims of alcohol-fueled violence.
- **Policy Frameworks:** Evaluations of structural prevention efforts, including WHO INSPIRE and RESPECT frameworks, that use alcohol reduction as a primary strategy to prevent violence against women and children

## Summary of Abstract Submission Guidelines

To have your research or programmatic insights considered for presentation, please adhere to the following requirements (for detail, visit the [UAPC26 abstract submission guidelines](#)):

- **Format:** Abstracts must be submitted in English.
- **Word Count:** The abstract body should be no more than 300 words (excluding author details).
- **Content:** Submissions must feature finalized, completed analyses. Proposals for specific session formats or workshops may also be accepted.
- **Submission Format:** All abstracts must be submitted online through the [Uganda Alcohol Policy Conference](#) portal. Emailed submissions are generally not accepted.
- **Author Details:** Presenting authors will typically be required to provide a brief biography and photograph upon submission.

## Important Deadlines

- **Submission Deadline:** August 31, 2026
- **Notification of Acceptance:** September 30, 2026
- **Conference Dates:** November 25–26, 2026
- For further updates on registration, venue specifics, and to access the online abstract submission form as the dates approach, please check the official Uganda Alcohol Policy Conference website.
- **Enquiries:** For enquiries and guidelines, please contact [ifo@uapa.or.ug](mailto:ifo@uapa.or.ug). +256 750 447878