INTRODUCTION / ISSUES: Alcohol is the only widely used mindbending substance with no public health or interest treaty. At WHO and other transnational agencies, only a handful of staff work on alcohol issues at the international level, while trade treaties and disputes and global commercial interests often impede or evade national and local alcohol control efforts. A four-day international research conference on alcohol’s global governance, held in Melbourne six weeks ago, considered alternative paths forward, what each could accomplish and how they might be realised.

KEY FINDINGS: While there is talk of a Framework Convention on Alcohol Control, it is unlikely to happen in the short run, and evidence on the utility of diverse other measures was presented and discussed at the meeting, including such measures as action under other UN treaties and their implementation bodies, actions under the UN Sustainable Development Goals and in human rights programs, and mechanisms such as committee reports and Special Rapporteurs.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION: The presentation outlines options laid out and discussed during the meeting, and identifies promising paths forward.

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