**Removal of sugary drinks from sales and service at WHO Headquarters**

**10/11 October, 2016:** You may notice something missing when you next visit the vending machines or cafeteria at WHO.Starting on 11 October**,** sugary drinks will no longer be sold or served at official functions at Headquarters.

The decision came as a result of discussions held during more than 6 months involving WHO technical units, the Staff Association, building management and the staff-led “Walk the Talk” health and wellbeing initiative.

The move signifies how seriously WHO is taking its leadership role in implementing policies to improve public health, including the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable diseases (2013–2020) and *the WHO Guideline on Sugars* intake for adults and children. By implementing this policy WHO is setting a positive example for Member States, other organizations and visitors. The measure will also be extended to the UNAIDS Building, where it is scheduled to come into effect at the beginning of November.

WHO vending machines, restaurants and coffee shops will continue to sell water, fizzy water, and unflavoured milks with different fat contents, teas and coffees, and beverages with non-sugar sweeteners (such as diet and zero calorie drinks). Sugar packets for use with tea and coffee will continue to be served.

This policy does not prohibit staff members from consuming sugary drinks on WHO property. Staff members can also bring sugary drinks for consumption during social events held on campus.

Sugary drinks are beverages containing free sugars[[1]](#footnote-1) including soft drinks, fruit drinks, sachet mixes, energy and sports drinks, flavoured milks (including hot chocolate), breakfast drinks, sweetened cold teas and coffees, and fruit juices, including 100% fruit juices.

The health impacts of non-sugar sweeteners are currently being reviewed by the Department of Nutrition for Health and Development (NHD). Once this scientific review of available evidence has been concluded, and in consultation with staff, sale and service of beverages with non-sugar sweeteners may be reconsidered (i.e. diet and zero calorie drinks) as part of a wider initiative to improve the food and beverage environment at WHO headquarters.

In the same manner, currently there is a process of reviewing the issues related to sale of alcoholic beverages at WHO headquarters.

1. Free sugars include monosaccharides and disaccharides added to foods and beverages by the manufacturer, cook or consumer, and sugars naturally present in honey, syrups, fruit juices and fruit juice concentrates (WHO Guideline: Sugars Intake for adults and children, 2015). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)