



## Joint Statement of the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) & the Alliance for Health Promotion & European Forum of Primary Care & Medicus Mundi International Network Health for All & Wemos Health Unlimited & Centre for Regional Policy Research and Cooperation 'Studiorum'

### Strategy on the health and well-being of men in the WHO European Region

Honourable chair,  
Distinguished guests,

All organizations named welcome the Strategy on the health and well-being of men in the WHO European Region and congratulates all the parties investing their efforts on it. Our associations have always been a passionate advocate for gender equity, therefore, we applaud the WHO efforts toward improving men's health while fighting gender stereotypes that entail negative health outcomes for men, women and other genders. We acknowledge the possible challenges and, therefore, call upon you, the Member States, to:

1. Follow this strategy by implementing policies that encourage equal participation in child rearing and paid parental leave for men. This creates equal opportunities for women at work, contributing to diminishing the gender wage gap. Moreover, it has proven positive effect on the work-life balance of families and health of both men and women, reducing for instance the risk of premature mortality and postpartum depression.
2. We also call upon you to promote large-scale research and segregated data collection for studying the health gaps between different genders. We want to emphasise that such data collection unfortunately does not mean the applied methods take into account gender roles and norms, which should be ensured.

We strongly believe that improving gender equity is one of the most potent ways to reduce health inequalities. We vow to change health, preventive and health promotion services, but we can only achieve a substantial change if you, the member states, are on board with us. We ask you to embrace the strategy and commit together to address the health impacts of gender inequity at both individual and collective levels.

Thank you for your attention.