



International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation

Since 1949 | Students today, pharmacists tomorrow.

70th Session of WHO Regional Committee for Europe The European Programme of Work (2020–2025) – “United Action for Better”

www.ipsf.org

Established in 1949, IPSF is the leading international advocacy organisation for pharmacy and pharmaceutical science students and recent graduates that promotes improved public health through the provision of information, education, networking, and a range of publications and professional activities.

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IPSF



Honourable Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

It is a great honour to speak on behalf of the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF) which represents the voice of over 500,000 pharmaceutical students and recent graduates in 100 countries worldwide.

As of its beginning, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a constant reminder of how fragile and vulnerable health systems can be. Everyone is at risk of being impacted by outbreaks, and the same goes for natural disasters, economic crises, and social outbursts. These events hit right at the core of health, physical, mental and social wellbeing.

IPSF commends the draft resolution for EPW 2020 - 2025, and we commit to contributing efficiently to this united action, by adopting this strategic direction for our future activities in collaboration with the WHO, Member States and allied agencies, in support of their core mission to promote health, protecting the vulnerable and keeping everyone safe.

IPSF urges the WHO Regional Office for Europe, commissions, and country offices to include and consider recruiting student organisations in planning and execution of country-based, subregional and regional actions or activities under the three core pillars of EPW. Additionally, the extensive network of student organisations all over Europe, reaching all kinds of audiences, from all ages, overreaching goals could be achieved. While youth are being empowered, and the next generations of healthcare professionals will be equipped with both theoretical and practical knowledge to further advance health in Europe and around the world.

Responding to future health needs requires innovative approaches and a knowledgeable health workforce about closing the digital gap in health systems, IPSF urges the Member States and respective education institutions to implement digital health and e-health courses in their curriculum education or introduce continuous education opportunities under these competencies for all professionals especially youth.

Additionally, IPSF urges the WHO to extend internship opportunities to young healthcare professionals in WHO/Europe offices, by utilising the healthcare student organisations with official relations. Allowing such contributions from young health care professionals will empower the future generations of leaders in health to develop and contribute to the sustainable development of the health systems in the European region. This will create a central European network that has the potential of a national or regional exchange programme or research opportunities.

In the spirit of united actions for better health in Europe, IPSF calls on WHO and the Member States to invest in an inclusive UHC system to cater for the high potential of national or regional immigrants and refugees, dealing with health emergencies and most importantly ensuring healthier populations. Pharmacists are exceptionally well prepared to contribute to the prevention and control of NCDs, seasonal vaccination, and reduction of the expenses on health. Pharmacists are front line professionals, which is the first point of call for patients requiring advice or assistance on minor ailments. By reinforcing their roles, pharmaceutical care and advocating for self-care education, we are investing in resilient and emergency-prepared systems.

Thank you.