



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

Statement on Agenda Point 5a) Promoting Intersectoral and Interagency Action for Health and Well-Being in the WHO European Region

Honourable Chair,
Distinguished Member State Delegates

This statement is delivered on behalf of the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA), World Federation of Occupational Therapists, European Public Health Alliance, Standing Committee of European Doctors, Medicus Mundi International, European civil society coalition 'Health workers for all and all for health workers', World Organisation of Family Doctors Region Europe, International Alliance of Patients Organisations and European Forum for Primary Care.

The Health 2020 is essential, as assumed by all European Member States, to improve the health status of European citizens, by recognising the utmost importance of social determinants of health and promoting intersectoral cooperation. Member States need to make the effort of involving the different sectors of society in health decisions and to focus their attention to all the policies taken at the national level, giving meaning to a Health in All Policies approach. Nonetheless, we believe that there is still a long way to go in order to fully take advantage of this collaboration.

Health literacy and investment in prevention is a paradigmatic example of this, in a sense that Member States must make a political choice that prioritises the empowerment of the population as leaders of their own health and therefore make health systems more sustainable.

Environmental determinants of health, access to food, good habitation conditions and more efficient and greener cities must be a priority of the Regional Office and Member States. Investment in active advocacy towards a healthier planet, aligned with the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, and building health systems with sustainable health workforce that are ready to address the needs that might arise from the climate change consequences are needed. European states must take strong stances in CoP21 defining effective agreements that will improve the stated needs.

As non-state actors, we also feel that the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach that the Health 2020 frames is not taking as much advantage of civil society as it can. Therefore, we call Member States and the Regional Office to further foster participation of the Non-Governmental organisations on these processes. Without active involvement of the people and civil society on it, we are very much concerned that the goals that have been settled might not be successfully achieved.

medical
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