



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

IFMSA Statement on Partnerships for Health in the WHO European Region 67th WHO Regional Committee for Europe, Budapest, Hungary

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations has long realized the importance of strong partnerships and what joining forces to work together towards the same goal can do to the impact of shared actions. We would like to take this opportunity to first thank the WHO and its European office for the meaningful partnership we have had throughout the years.

Investing in partnerships does not only increase productivity and contribution towards improving global health, but also provides a platform for capacity building and fruitful communication. We believe that the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors serves as a fine example of how to develop partnerships in the complex global health landscape, and remain invested in monitoring its impact. However, we all must be careful while engaging with the private sector and aware of potential conflicts of interest between partners, including WHO and its member States.

We strongly support the replacement of Rule 2 sentence of the Rules of Procedure, as it promotes equal access and opportunities for Non-State Actors. We appreciate the effort of strengthening the collaboration with Non-State Actors already in official relations with WHO while at the same time not forgetting about the unused potential of non-related NSAs. We welcome the procedure to grant accreditation to such Non-State Actors.

Inclusive engagement of all possible partners is an extremely important aspect of meaningful youth participation. Not many student organizations are in official relations with WHO, which is why we, as the IFMSA, count ourselves extremely lucky. We encourage the implementation of the procedure, and hope that this can lead to an increase of youth involvement as a direct result.

Most of the risk factors causing NCD-related deaths start in adolescence, adolescents suffer from HIV/AIDS without access to treatment, young people suffer from mental illnesses, injuries, gender-based violence and child marriages, and no access to safe abortion. Therefore, we sincerely believe young people's input in WHO is essential. Only someone who understands the age group from personal experience and is directly affected by youth programmes, can help create the most effective policies. Inclusiveness must be reinforced as to not fail our children in 2030 by neglecting to adequately address the needs of children, adolescents and young people today.

Partnering with youth organizations provides accessible options for collaboration, which is why we recognize the need for youth involvement at all levels of society. We would like to thank all European states who have included youth delegates in their WHO delegations and we hope for this to become a standard practice in the future. IFMSA would be happy to assist any member state in setting up their own youth delegate system. Furthermore, we are currently working on creating an institutionalized youth space within the WHO, the adoption of which may very well promptly open the door towards European progress in partnerships for health with youth actors. We kindly ask for the support of member states once the proposal reaches their capitals, and are open to discuss it either during this regional committee or otherwise.