



Statement of International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) & the European Medical Students' Associations & European Forum of Primary Care.

Vaccine-preventable diseases and immunization: realizing the full potential of the European Vaccine Action Plan 2015–2020

Honourable chair, distinguished delegates,

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, European Medical Students' Associations and European Forum of Primary Care recognize the importance of immunization programs. We applaud the efforts made by the WHO European region to carry out the European Vaccine Action Plan.

While we highly appreciate the achievements made thus far, we must also raise some concerns: The remaining polio immunity gaps, the fact that the region is not on track to achieve elimination of measles and rubella by 2020 and the decrease in the number of member states with a 95% or greater national DTP3 vaccine coverage alarm us. We are also worried about the inequities of immunization coverage and the challenges faced by some member states in financially sustaining their immunization programmes.

In order to reach the EVAP goals we urge the members states to develop and sustain strong immunization programs. Moreover, to expand and strengthen surveillance systems to generate all needed information. Political will to achieve the sustainable development goals also implies achieving vaccination for all. Today we renew our commitment to ensure vaccination remains a national and global priority.

It is the right of every child to live free from vaccine-preventable diseases. As healthcare professionals of tomorrow we expect all member states to make this right a reality by achieving the EVAP goals by 2020.

Thank you