



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

Statement of the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) 69th Session of WHO Europe Regional Committee

Agenda Item 5.j

Roadmap to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Health 2020, the European policy for health and well-being (resolution EUR/RC67/R3)

We are speaking on behalf of more than 1.3 million medical students around the world that advocate for the global movement to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Highly supporting the WHO in promoting a multisectoral and coordinated approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, we would like to draw your attention to a few crucial points.

Our region today has the highest burden of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis of all WHO regions and is not on track to meet the HIV target. Strengthen national surveillance and research on Antimicrobial resistance by supporting innovation is an essential step that requires commitment from all European countries. HIV issues could be addressed by raising awareness and nationally ensuring accessible contraception, bringing testing and treatment for all who need it.

The achievement of the goal to reduce non-communicable diseases by one third by 2030 is close, however, the prevalence of mental health disorders lately increased in the Region and suicide rates remain unacceptably high. We urge Member States to increase funding for mental health services and psychiatric research, particularly with regards to youth and adolescents.

We also call you to participate and encourage education and advocacy activities that are geared towards Universal Health Coverage, because Health systems need to be further and continuously strengthened to achieve it.

Conducting regular reviews of the progress on the 2030 Agenda requires the establishment of national statistics networks and offices responsible for collecting, monitoring and analyzing data on SDGs indicators. Therefore, we urge you to also involve youth representatives in this important process and empower future generations in health decision making.

All that would strengthen the capacities of Member States to achieve better and more equitable and sustainable health and well-being for all at all ages in the WHO European Region.