



International
Pharmaceutical
Students' Federation



IFMSA, IPSF, WFME and HCWH Europe Statement on: Towards a sustainable health workforce in the WHO European Region: framework for action 67th WHO Regional Committee for Europe, Budapest, Hungary

At this point it is undeniable, we are facing a health workforce crisis in terms of geographical and skills distribution and increasing demand of health care professionals. Multiple efforts have been conducted to plan and promote future sustainability. We must not let these efforts fall through.

Having said that, IFMSA, IPSF, WFME and HCWH Europe congratulate the WHO Regional Committee on the document presented, as we believe that it is through strategic planning and clear goals that we can achieve what our policies stand for and take steps to promote better health in our region.

Nonetheless, we would like to emphasize the importance of focusing on the quality of healthcare professionals' education, as an essential component to achieve the 2020 health objectives, and, by no means, let it be compromised by the increasing demand of health care professionals. The solutions we implement must consider the Medical and Pharmacy Institutions' capacity to train healthcare professionals and our health systems' need for them. The lack of such proper planning and forecasting may cause serious problems in terms of equal access to education and promoting good working conditions, independent of socio-economic background.

We welcome the framework's focus on accreditation, but note that an established accreditation mechanism alone is not sufficient - the accreditation itself must be of high quality. We agree that to advance the agenda for collaboration and regulation requires strengthening of the capacity of regulatory and accreditation authorities. Additionally, we urge stakeholders to actively seek to set standards, drawing from the International Pharmaceutical Federation's Workforce Development Goals, released in Nanjing in 2016, the international criteria set by the World Federation of Medical Education for accreditation systems updated this year, and the WFME 2015 standards for undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing professional development.

Furthermore, in order to address the rising burden of noncommunicable diseases and the worsening effects and urgent threat of climate change, we must recognize the importance of primary health care to properly educate and care for our population, as well as our duty to take action to minimize environmental risk factors on health and the healthcare sector itself. Consequently, we must affirm the importance of community based learning, by addressing these topics in healthcare curricula and throughout continuous professional development, and increase the resilience of hospitals and health systems to the effects of climate change.

Honorable chair, the organizations supporting this statement affirm the importance of including all sectors and stakeholders in the debates and decision making processes, in a joint and collaborative effort that will ultimately shape our future.

Thank you!

Organizations supporting this statement:

- **International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF)** - *IPSF is the leading global advocacy organisation for pharmacy students and recent graduates. It has over 350 000 members in over 80 countries worldwide.*
- **World Federation for Medical Education (WFME)** - *The World Federation for Medical Education supports healthcare for all through enhancing the quality of medical education worldwide. It is a collaboration of doctors, educators and universities through its six regional associations and key partner organisations.*
- **Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe** - *Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) Europe is a non-profit coalition of hospitals, healthcare systems, healthcare professionals, local authorities, research/academic institutions, and environmental and health organisations. The organisation brings the voice of healthcare professionals to the European policy debate about key environmental issues and currently has 84 members in 26 countries of the WHO European Region, including 17 Member States of the European Union.*
- **International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)** - *The International Federation of Medical Students Associations represents, connects and engages with a network of 1.3 million medical students from 130 national members organizations in 122 countries around the globe*