



Joint Statement of International Federation of Medical Students' Associations & The European Partnership for improving health, equity and wellbeing (EuroHealthNet) & Alliance for Health Promotion & Health Care Without Harm & European Forum of Primary Care & European Alcohol Policy Alliance (Eurocare) & Medicus Mundi International Network Health for All & Wemos Health Unlimited

Advancing public health in the WHO European Region for sustainable development

Honourable chair, Distinguished guests,

All co-signers organizations of this statement are passionate change-makers, who are committed to Health for All. Together, we are strongly committed to promoting public health as a key to obtain sustainable development

We believe public health should be addressed through a holistic, people-centered and life-long approach stretching far beyond the health sector alone. To tackle major challenges such as non-communicable diseases and mental health, a shift in our approach to public health is necessary.

Firstly, we emphasize the urgent necessity to undertake a transformation of our health systems. A preventive health model that addresses upstream determinants of health is needed. In order to achieve this, we urge the member states of the WHO European Region to rely on sustainable and prevention-oriented primary healthcare.

Secondly, we reaffirm the need for a health in all policy approach that recognizes that the determinants to health rely on many interlinked sectors. A holistic approach of every population group remains impossible if an intersectoral approach is not adopted. Thus, we strongly support the second point of the action plan, encouraging member states to adopt coherent strategies across all sectors.

Thirdly, climate change and planetary health is an example of highly interlinked topic with a major impact on public health, considered both as the biggest threat and opportunity for public

health in the 21st century. It is of utmost importance that we take joined responsibility to make sure that we build resilient healthcare systems and that the health workforce is sufficiently prepared to face this new challenge. Furthermore, the healthcare sector, as a major source of greenhouse gas emissions both in its operations and supply chain, should reduce its own carbon footprint and lead by example - also educating staff and the public while promoting policies to protect public health from climate change.

Lastly, the education of the future and current health workforce should thrive to create a generation of aware, fit-for-purpose and skilful changemakers whom society can rely on to further advance public health. This is why we strongly recommend the youth of every country to become involved in every step of the way: nothing about us without us.

Thank you for your attention.