



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.i Action Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health: towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Europe – leaving no one behind

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations has always been a frontline advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and thus we congratulate the efforts towards becoming a region where every individual is empowered to exercise SRHR to their full potential. As much as we appreciate these efforts, healthcare is no place to be modest in our actions, therefore, to successfully continue the work on this action plan, we call upon you, Member States, to:

Firstly, to develop policies on SRHR, providing comprehensive and evidence-based information concerning effective methods of family planning. The integration of family planning into strategies is a prerequisite towards the truly universal health coverage for all, including the 1.2 billion adolescents worldwide. Our region shall not leave this population behind, thus, we ask you to ensure that adolescents are explicitly mentioned and acknowledged in the design of these documents.

Secondly, we call upon you to acknowledge the autonomy of women and girls regarding reproductive decisions as essential to family planning, yet without contributing to current stigmatization. We ask you to more actively promote access to safe abortion services to all girls and women regardless of their financial or social status. To achieve this, we call upon you to adopt legislation which protects unrestricted access to safe and comprehensive abortion.

We are not only the healthcare providers of tomorrow but also the young global health leaders of the present, and we are committed to doing all in our power to fulfill this action plan. However, we cannot do it alone, and ask you, Member States, for your dedication in not only achieving these goals but also empowering the youth advocates. Implementation of an inclusive health-focused approach to reproductive health and rights will benefit all of the Member States that shall not only survive but, most importantly, thrive and transform for a brighter future.