



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.d The WHO transformation and its implications for the WHO European Region

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations welcomes the transformation reforms and the efforts of the Regional Office for Europe to streamline the work of WHO at all levels and deliver WHO's Thirteenth General Programme of Work.

We would like to remind that the triple billion goals can't be reached without partnerships including civil society. Even then it is important to take into account that youth are often under-represented in civil society organizations and looking actively for their input is the only way to ensure their voice is heard.

We applaud all efforts done so far on the Regional Offices level to recognise the role of youth in the official framework and ensure it is implemented not only on the regional level but also in the work of Country Offices. WHO Regional Office for Europe could take the leading role in creating a strategy for youth involvement in the decision-making processes. Such a strategy would aim to empower young people and ensure their meaningful participation in health processes, by including the systematic consultation of youth in the development of Country Cooperation Strategies, support youth-led initiatives as well as increase accessibility to international and regional WHO meetings by civil society organisations and youth. This would serve to ensure that WHO stands for Health for All, by All.

This regional youth engagement strategy could be a model for other regions, and for WHO Headquarters in recognizing young people as an equal and valued stakeholder in health.

IFMSA, which represents 48 National Member Organisations in the European Region, is committed to support initiating this process and collaborate with all partners to make it a reality. We will continue amplifying the voice of young healthcare professionals and building the capacity of youth to create their own initiatives in health and engage meaningfully with country offices, governments, and other stakeholders. However, youth engagement is a two-way street, and can only be achieved with the systematic involvement of all parties.