



# IFMSA

International Federation of  
Medical Students' Associations

## **Statement of the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) 70th Session of WHO Europe Regional Committee**

### ***agenda item 3a: Transformation in the WHO European Region***

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations welcomes the transformation reform and applauds the valuable efforts by the Regional Office for Europe to streamline the work of the WHO at global and regional levels to deliver the Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019–2023.

Youth, being the largest population group on Earth, are also a vitally underrepresented demographic in decision-making processes related to health. We find it of utmost importance to highlight that the triple billion goals can only be reached by actively engaging in building sustainable and long lasting partnerships with various stakeholders, including the representatives of youth among the civil society.

Therefore, we call on the Regional Office to take the leading role in amplifying the voice of young healthcare professionals in training by creating a strategy for active youth involvement and inclusion in the health agenda. Such initiative should aim to empower young people and ensure their meaningful participation in health related matters through including youth into systemic consultation in the development of Country Cooperation Strategies, supporting various youth-led initiatives as well as by increasing accessibility to international and regional WHO meetings and by such recognising the value of having a platform for youth to meaningfully engage and take active part in the proceedings .

In conclusion, we believe such a strategy could ideally serve as a model for WHO and its other regions and could lead to recognising youth as an equal and valued stakeholder in health. We further emphasise the importance of systemic involvement of all parties and call upon all stakeholders to engage meaningfully with youth organizations in pushing the regional health agenda forward.