



# IFMSA

International Federation of  
Medical Students' Associations

## **Statement of the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) 69<sup>th</sup> Session of WHO Europe Regional Committee**

### ***Agenda Item 5.a Leadership in public health in the WHO European Region***

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations values the discussion of the contribution of leadership in health policy and practice.

We believe that, in order to foster successful future decision-makers and health advocates, it is essential to include global and public health education in the medical curriculum. In the world of today, no health issue can be targeted successfully without realizing its international context. We call on Member States and non-state actors to implement global and public health education as a necessary and vital component of medical education, raising a generation of health professionals and leaders who are able to deal with public health emergencies in a more efficient way.

In addition, the IFMSA makes a conscious effort to increase gender equity and diversity amongst leaders. Currently, women make up 52% of physicians in this region. However, only 30% of health ministers are female. We call on Member States to develop and implement strategies to increase the representation of women and people from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds in all decision-making organs and in leadership positions. Such efforts should be carried out through a dialogue with the aforementioned groups, so that all people may have access to their human rights of expression, safety, education, marriage, and equal opportunity to participate in the workforce and contribute to socio-economic development.

To conclude, young people—educated, empowered and engaged—will be and are the new leaders, today and tomorrow. Youth have shown their ability and capacity to be the positive change agents who can address and help solve the emergent issues we face today around the world. Youth have the potential to contribute towards building resilient nations whilst ensuring sustainable human development and quality of life for generations to come. Therefore, we call on all Member States to ensure meaningful youth participation, which requires that individuals are entitled to participate in the decisions that directly affect them, including design, implementation, and monitoring of these interventions.