



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

WHO Executive Board Meeting 138th session Geneva, 25-30 January 2016

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Agenda Item 7.5 – Health and the environment: addressing the health impact of air pollution

Honorable Chair,
Honorable Members of the Executive Board,

We, the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, welcome the draft road map around air pollution.

The IFMSA is deeply concerned about the health impacts of air pollution, as data shows that one of eight deaths worldwide are caused by reasons associated with air pollution every year. If we add the comorbidities and the environmental damages, which in turn plays a role in climate change, the significance of this issue becomes even more visible. If actions are not taken immediately, we are concerned it will be impossible to sustain a healthy environment for the future generations.

The adverse effects of air pollution on human health and the effectiveness of specific sector policies can only be determined by reliable evidence in this area. Much research has been conducted on this topic. However, significant knowledge gaps remain.

IFMSA would like to call for the following:

- To take into consideration the health co-benefits of environmentally friendly policies, including those considering air quality, which can positively impact the risk factors of NCDs and promote healthy lifestyles;
- To standardize collection and evaluation of data and coordination of national health databases for the effective monitoring of air pollution effects on human health;
- To increase cooperation with civil society for raising awareness and educating the public about the effects of air pollution on health.

IFMSA has been committed to raising awareness about the issues of climate and health, through educational activities, participation in high-level meetings and other endeavors. And we will continue to do so until proper actions are taken.

Bearing in mind the recently adopted Paris agreement, we are optimistic that Member States will work on the crucial targets of this road map and achieve progress for the future generations.

Thank you.