



# IFMSA

International Federation of  
Medical Students' Associations

**WHO Executive Board Meeting 138<sup>th</sup> session  
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IFMSA delegation at WHO EB138:  
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## **Agenda Item 8.5 - Global action plan on antimicrobial resistance.**

Honourable Chair,  
Distinguished delegates,

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations commends World Health Organization's role in addressing antimicrobial resistance and congratulates the Director-General on the progress in this field.

We applaud the opportunities within the upcoming United Nations General Assembly and urge Member States to participate in the creation of these events. However, as the future generation of healthcare leaders, we strongly call upon opportunities for involvement of NGOs and youth in this process, of which neither is mentioned in the report by the secretariat.

Following the past WHO regional meetings, the reports revealed that many Member States still lack appropriate institutions and mechanisms to monitor and tackle this urgent issue. Health professionals must provide sound, evidence-based prescriptions. Reaffirming the One Health initiative, we strongly urge Member States to be accountable for integrating empirical treatment regimens and diagnostic protocols into the continuous professional education as well as the health curricula, eliminating the health literacy gap regarding antimicrobial polypharmacy and self-pharmacy. Furthermore, we strongly urge Member States to actively seek and regulate alternative methods of antimicrobial drug distribution to prevent suboptimal drugs from reaching our hospitals.

AMR is a generational issue. As future healthcare professionals, we face the risk of losing essential drugs to treat otherwise curable diseases of patients under our care. We are on the verge of returning to the pre-antibiotic era. Not acting now means we have failed our patients throughout their life course.

AMR is a cross-cutting issue and thus, success can only be obtained by meaningful collaboration with all involved sectors. We call on Member States to put the health of the people above the financial interests of the industries. We believe a healthy population is the only honourable and financially prospective population to aim for.

Thank you for your attention.