



# IFMSA

International Federation of  
Medical Students' Associations

## **Statement of International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) 69th World Health Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland**

### **Agenda item 16.3 Substandard/spurious/falsely-labelled/falsified/counterfeit medical products**

Honorable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA), representing more than a million medical students worldwide, encourage WHO and the Member States to continue their coordinated efforts against substandard, spurious, falsely-labelled, falsified and counterfeit (SSFFC) medical products.

The dissemination of these products has become a global issue, affecting low-, middle- and high-income countries. They span the spectrum of drugs, and represent a serious, preventable, and unacceptable threat to public health. Furthermore, SSFFC Medical products compromise the accessibility to effective, safe, and quality medical products. As physicians of tomorrow, we worry about the potential of SSFFC medical products to undermine the very trust of patients for health systems, and therefore to compromise our ability to build strong therapeutic alliances.

We congratulate the Assembly on the development of the WHO Global Surveillance and Monitoring System, its capacity building efforts with national regulatory authorities, and the development of quality control frameworks. However, we believe the actions should not only target the supply side of the issue, but also involve stakeholders on the demand side.

We call for governments to:

1. Promote professional education on the dangers of SSFFC of health workers to enable better reporting of suspect medicines to the relevant authorities. Most medical students lack relevant medical curriculum on this issue. Physicians, pharmacists, and other allied health providers represent the last barrier between SSFFC products and patients.
2. Develop an effective public outreach and education campaign, aimed to inform consumers of the risks of SSFFC on their health.

Finally, IFMSA expect that the SSFFC potentially could hinder access to medicines in certain settings, which would be a detrimental consequence. Therefore, we encourage Member States to take this risk into consideration.

Thank you for your attention.