



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

World Health Organization

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Statement of International Federation of Medical Students' Associations on Agenda Item 9.1: Antimicrobial Resistance

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations applauds and supports Global Action Plan (GAPs) and the proposed National Action Plans (NPAs) with which member states have so strongly collaborated on.

We, the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, believe that the recent and continuing increase in antibiotic resistance caused by antibiotic abuse is one of the greatest challenges to global health today. Rampant overuse of antibiotics in both humans and animals, frequent misdiagnoses of non-bacterial infections, poor infection-control techniques, and unregulated usage of empirical treatments by some health professionals today, is a one way ticket down a road that will have crucial outcomes, the burden of which will be borne by our future generations.

Self-medication and over the counter antibiotic sales without prescriptions, using second and third line drug regimens for simple infections has to be controlled by formulating new legislation or enforcing existing laws and as health professionals, we must prescribe antibiotics judiciously with a risk assessment approach.

We therefore would like to commend the WHO and its member states' commitment to tackle this global situation by making country specific National Action Plans (NAPs) in alignment with Global Action Plan (GAP) and providing technical assistance and a forum for member states to share their best practices. In the absence of such measures, we are concerned that we may see a return to the pre-antibiotic era, in which simple infections could cause severe disability or death.

Reaffirming the One Health initiative, we strongly urge Member States to be accountable for integrating relevant and urgent emerging resistance trends, empirical treatment regimens and diagnostic protocols into the continuous professional education as well as the health curricula, eliminating the health literacy gap regarding AM polypharmacy and self-pharmacy.

Thank you for your attention.

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