



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 10.6: Regional Action Plan and targets for prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases (2013–2020)

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We would like to highlight on the growing issue of Prevention of NCDs and its risk factors. According to the latest publication of WHO, 82% of premature deaths occurring due to NCDs occur in the developing countries of which many are a part of South East Asia. The structures of societies have influenced the advancements of the diseases either directly or indirectly. The danger part is that the younger generation is also getting affected at a very large scale. Obesity is the condition of prime concern the IFMSA would like to emphasize on. The awareness of NCDs and risk factors among youth plays the most important role in mending the past and shaping the future.

The IFMSA would like to also state its function that the Medical Students Worldwide have come together striving to expel the differences in the community and bring in a global action. The root cause of NCDs have to be tackled upon. The socioeconomic and environmental factors have greatly impacted the working conditions which have invariably caused the midline shift in the physical activeness of the common man from exertive to abeyant. This calls for the international cooperation of the various sectors to come together to address this issue. The IFMSA is deeply concerned about the pace these NCDs are settling down. The march against NCDs should be enforced into each and every single sector and industry as a compulsory part of work to enhance and ensure a healthy life.

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations applauds and supports the implementation of the Southeast Asia Regional Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable diseases (NCDs) and related efforts done during the last few years. Technical reports on NCDs have shown the progress on numerous fronts by the member states. We are glad to see the determination to fight against NCDs

However, we still see room for improvement. Therefore, we urge member states to encourage the implementation of ways of living and eating habits. Member States should cooperate with national and local NGOs to advocate for healthy lifestyles and implement appropriate measures which engage the food producers, retailers and caterers, ensuring the enhanced availability, accessibility and affordability of healthier food products. IFMSA is also calling on the industry to recognize the potential health threats of products which hold risk factors, such as unhealthy processed foods, alcoholic beverages, tobacco and high-sugar products to kids and youth. We call on governments to create and fully implement more responsible and binding legislations to limit the exposure of the public to such high-risk NCDs factors. Furthermore, we urge Member States to have an active advocacy on sports and exercise, for governments to provide adequate facilities and education, which can incentivize citizens to exercise more, and the last to implement an integrated policy on family medicine and prevention, as NCDs should be combatted based on the family, the community and the society.

We hope to see a healthy Southeast Asia physically and mentally. With the help and commitment by Member States, we will see a healthy region in the foreseeable future.

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