



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

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IFMSA delegation at WHO EB138:
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Agenda Item 7.3 – Operational plan to take forward the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health

Honourable chair,
Distinguished delegates,

For many years, the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) has been advocating for improving the health of Women, Children, and Adolescents. IFMSA welcomes the operational plan and we thank the WHO for the place given to youth and medical students in it.

Among the 169 targets of the sustainable development goals 17 are directly related to improving the health of women, children and adolescents. These numbers underscore the importance behind the implementation of the global strategy.

Living in many different conditions adolescents, children and women are facing different health problems worldwide. Hence we call for the health issues of these vulnerable groups to be addressed in country plans and via strong national health systems, which are based on appropriate health workforce planning, high quality treatment and access to essential medicines.

We highlight the importance of involving youth-led and youth-driven organizations in the decision-making and implementation of mechanisms tackling problems related to youth, in order to ensure that the needs of adolescents are correctly identified.

IFMSA will continue to provide capacity building activities, such as our current comprehensive sexuality education trainings and program at country level, as well as trainings on safe abortion at our regional meeting, to ensure the future health professionals fully understand the importance of this area and the challenges we meet.

We commit to scale up our efforts within awareness and international educational campaigns focusing on this topic, in order to empower youth as active and powerful agents of change. It is our goal to contribute to improve the health of women, children and adolescents. Today, we call on member states to set the same goal.

Thank you for your attention.