



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

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

Agenda item 16.1 Health workforce and services - Draft global strategy on human resources for health: workforce 2030

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates,

Health is a right. A very difficult and costly one to provide universally. Any failure or inefficiency in management of Health Systems lead to huge costs and possible negative consequences to patients and thereby the societies we are accountable to. One of the most, or maybe the most important, factor to provide Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is the health workforce.

Therefore, the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) welcomes the much needed **Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health**.

We recognize the challenges faced globally related to health workforce planning and forecasting, deficit, quality assurance, distribution, and migration.

A crucial aspect, we urge Member States attention to, is not only migration itself, but the impact health workforce strategies have on medical education and ultimately, patient outcomes. We urge Member States to assure quality in education through mandatory accreditations of academic institutions according to the World Federation for Medical Education Global Standards, and to ensure that the national frameworks, curricula, assessment tools and legal frameworks live up to the expectations of competent health workers in today's world.

In order to ensure a comprehensive approach to health workforce planning and forecasting, Member States must involve all stakeholders, especially medical students, young physicians in training, and academic institutions, in their decision making processes. These are the ones directly in touch with the system, and will be the "product" of the system.

Lastly, training a healthcare professional may take more than 10 years. This highlights the importance of having a proper strategy to plan the education and training of professionals than need to be prepared for the future.

We are hopeful that this Global Strategy would reach a successful implementation in all of the signatory countries.

Thank you.