



# IFMSA

International Federation of  
Medical Students' Associations

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

### **Agenda item 16.4 Addressing the global shortages of medicines, and the safety and accessibility of children's medication**

Honorable Chairperson,

We, the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, thank the WHO for its report on Addressing the global shortage of medicines, and addressing the safety and accessibility of children's medication. We highlight that access to medicines is a major issue facing the global population today.

We applaud the WHO for recognizing the multifactorial nature of this global problem, but call on member states to think more broadly when considering actions which can lead to a solution.

The current research and development system is incapable of providing effective and sufficient solutions to the global shortages of medicines. It is essential to rethink and restructure the current way of innovations. We believe patents no longer foster innovation and development of new medicines - alternative models to research and innovation are needed. Innovative incentives for research and development at every stage of the drug production process are imperative in addressing inequalities in access to medicines globally. Failure to change our current drug development system has resulted in failure to deliver needs driven, sustainable, effective medical care for every child and every global citizen.

By following recommendations from the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development (CEWG), we acknowledge the efforts of WHO member states in negotiating a binding research and development agreement to support a coherent and needs driven approach to biomedical innovation.

Finally, we would like to encourage the WHO to speak out against implementation of international trade agreements currently under negotiation. It is understood that they have a huge potential to impact access to medicines for many millions of people and to worsen this already desperate situation. We believe the voice of this organization needs to be heard in informing decision makers about the potentially catastrophic effects of these agreements.

Thank you.