



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

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

Agenda item 12.4 Prevention and control of Non-communicable diseases

Honorable chair,
Distinguished delegates,

Recalling that NCDs have been highlighted as the second health issue addressed at a UN General Assembly can only show how much NCDs represent a cross-cutting issue that goes beyond our role as health professionals. NCDs need to be integrated into health-in-all policies, as part of a whole-of-government approach with intersectoral planning and programming of national policies in different fields, but also by reacting to the private sector and industries that are most of the times benefiting from NCDs nationally and therefore internationally.

IFMSA is calling on the industry to recognize the potential health threats of products which hold risk factors, such as unhealthy processed foods, alcoholic beverages and tobacco. 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.

Recognizing that internationally, NCDs receive one of the smallest amount of donor funding of all major global health areas, we call for countries to work on triangular cooperation, following the recent dialogues of the NCD GCM, and support each other to implement national frameworks aiming to raise funds and provide strong finances to prevent and treat NCDs. The strongest examples being taxation on sugar and tobacco.

Finally, we recommend governments to ensure that the voices of young people are heard, and to increase youth involvement in the global NCDs movement and policy implementation by advocating for youth-oriented NCDs awareness programs in the local, regional and global level.

Thank you for your attention.