



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

**Statement of the
International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)
70th World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization
Agenda Item 13.7 Promoting the health of refugees and migrants**

Honourable chair,
Distinguished delegates,

IFMSA warmly welcomes WHO's draft framework of priorities and guiding principles. We hope this framework will support the creation of comprehensive strategies that can be translated into specific and coherent policies addressing the health needs of all migrants and refugees. We believe that to promote the health of refugees and migrants it is central to have the understanding of a full impact of the migration process on their physical and mental health. Hence, appropriate evidence, and data collection, guided by the ethical and human rights principles must be put in place to ensure that health policies will address specific health needs of people on the move.

Well-managed migration guided by people-centered, human rights and evidence-based policies will ensure positive outcomes for health of migrants, refugees and communities around them. Therefore, we call on all Member States and all other relevant stakeholders to ensure that *Health of migrants and refugees* will be properly addressed in the Global Compact on safe, orderly and regular migration and the Global Compact on Refugees.

Finally, we would like to highlight the impact that migration policies have on the physical and mental health of migrants and asylum seekers during transit and detention periods. Hence, we urge all Member States to immediately take concrete steps to create and promote safe and legal routes for people on the move to reach their destinations. To ensure the health of migrants in transit, it is essential that health care services are not dependent on migratory status or linked to immigration or asylum procedures. We urge the need for Member States to minimise the detrimental impacts of detention by implementing a legally binding time limit to the temporary detention periods as well as ensuring that during these periods, basic health care is provided and human rights of individuals are respected and protected.

Thank you