



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 15.1 Preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the General
Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, to be
held in 2018***

Honourable chair,
Distinguished delegates,

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations would like to congratulate the report on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases. We recognize the urgency of decreasing the global burden of NCDs and reducing, as well as the actions planned to achieve the goals of the WHO Action Plan 2013-2020 and the nine global voluntary targets. However, we still believe some issues that are detrimental to a measurable outcome have not been fully addressed.

Globally, funding to implement cost-effective interventions for NCDs, from both domestic and international sources, is grossly inadequate for the relative burden of disease that these diseases contribute. Consensus is growing that the SDGs will not be primarily financed from international aid budgets, and countries require catalytic funds to build national capacity to address NCDs. Despite the fact that NCDs account for almost 70% of global deaths (many of which are premature), donor support for programs such as communicable disease and maternal and child health still greatly outweighs that of NCDs.

These issues need to be addressed with a multisectorial approach. We call for bolder measures, increased investment, and greater policy coherence.

Furthermore, IFMSA considers that the global youth has a significant role to play in the battle against NCDs, and is able to give a more human face to NCD prevention and control. Leading up to the United Nations High Level Meeting on NCDs in 2018, IFMSA calls upon all stakeholders to:

- Ensure comprehensive consultation and collaboration across sectors including civil society organisations
- Recognise the importance of meaningful youth participation in processes related to the prevention and control of NCDs
- Ensure voices of young people are heard at all levels of society, recognising that young people will be living in a world informed by decisions made today

Thank you,