



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) statement for 2017 Global Platform for Disaster Risk reduction

Honorable Chair, Distinguished delegates,

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) and its 132 national member organisations are actively involved in disaster and emergency medicine, advocating for better access to humanitarian aid, and building capacity for greater prevention, preparedness and response amongst medical students.

In 2015, the IFMSA made voluntary commitments to the Sendai framework, setting 5 targets with associated progress indicators for the upcoming two years. Through these commitments, we aimed to increase knowledge on how to manage risks and challenges for public health in disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery and build capacity among future medical professionals. We also intended to create an international platform for medical students to pursue their interest in disaster and emergency medicine, thus equipping them with skills and knowledge to communicate their priorities in development of international and national DRR policies and to advocate for inclusion and strengthening of DRR in their medical schools' curricula.

IFMSA in close cooperation with the University of Eastern Piedmont's Research Center in Emergency and Disaster Medicine (CRIMEDIM) have created the "Training disaster medicine Trainers" course. This course aims to provide medical students with basic knowledge on disaster medicine and humanitarian health, along with a respect towards the sanctuary of health services, with a holistic humanitarian approach of health in the larger setting of disaster management. Training Disaster Medicine Trainers is the first international program to teach medical students knowledge and skills of disaster medicine and empower them to bring their knowledge to their home countries, peers and communities.

In the last two years, the Training disaster medicine Trainers has graduated 27 internationally certified disaster medicine peer-to-peer trainers. With our DRR workshops, trainings and courses, we were able to target more than 520 medical students in all regions around the world. With the third edition of Training disaster medicine Trainers coming in 2017, we aim to continue all our efforts, collaborate with relevant stakeholders and contribute to the implementation of the Sendai framework. Without continuous and complex actions involving communities, and especially young people, all the efforts made would be merely palliative.

For these reasons, the IFMSA pledges to advocate for inclusion of disaster risk reduction training in medical curricula in order to leverage the potential within medical students, and to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to be active humanitarian contributors now and in the future.

Thank you for your attention.