Honourable chair,
Distinguished delegates,

We warmly welcome the draft thirteenth general programme of work. We would like to highlight the mentioned need for intersectoral action by multiple stakeholders and particularly involving youth. Youth (aged 15-24), as one of the biggest demographics on earth, are undoubtedly an important agent of positive change in the world. They are the backbone of the future and the new leaders of tomorrow.

As a youth organisation representing 1.3 million medical students worldwide, made of passionate change-makers, we encourage stronger focus on meaningful youth participation. However, both at the global and national level, youth are often either left out of conversations or tokenized. We believe young people can bring innovative ideas, intellectual capacity, lateral thinking and fresh perspectives.

Throughout the past period, WHO has set an example of promoting meaningful youth participation and ensuring youth are being represented in many working groups, initiatives and meetings. We acknowledge and appreciate the increasing efforts of WHO to engage youth meaningfully in global health and we urge all stakeholders to follow the example of WHO in this.

Therefore, we would like to call upon the WHO and its Member States to ensure the full and effective participation of youth-led and youth-serving organizations by:

- Having member states establishing youth delegates programs and ensuring their delegations to WHO meetings have youth representatives from their countries.
- Establishing and supporting youth participation in the WHO internship programme, and to have these internships accessible and affordable to all youth, regardless of their socioeconomic background.
- Continuing and broadening the inclusion of youth in all areas of the program of work and all initiatives, events and working groups related to it.

We are ready to play an active role to reach the triple billion target, and we would like to be meaningfully engaged at all levels of its implementation.

Thank you.