Honourable chair, Distinguished delegates,

Our world is struggling with numerous health-related challenges and emergent disasters that threaten our global health security on a daily basis. The International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations believes that it is an utmost necessity to build and follow a strategic plan that strengthens our public health infrastructure and maximize our preparedness in response to emergency conditions. We unquestionably echo and support all efforts made by WHO and all member states in that context.

We strongly agree that effective public health preparedness is best achieved by global and regional collaborative work, as well as through the active role of states and local communities. We, therefore, urge all international agencies and stakeholders to encourage a multi-sectoral approach to build and sustain core capacities of healthcare professionals and public health responders on a local, national and international levels. We also call upon member states and funding organisations to make non earmarked funds rapidly available in the event of a health emergency, as many actors did during the latest Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a fortnight ago; as well as increase contributions to the WHO Contingency Fund for Emergencies.

We, as medical students, global health advocates, volunteers, and local frontline responders are committed to take on health leadership roles locally and globally. Young people, through their unique placement in local communities, are essential partners in prevention, response, and recovery from health emergencies - and we invite all the stakeholders to join us in these efforts.

Thank you.