Statement of the
International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations (IFMSA)
71st World Health Assembly

Agenda Item 11.8 Preparation for a high-level meeting of the General Assembly
on ending tuberculosis

Honourable chair,
Distinguished delegates,

Tuberculosis ranks as the deadliest infectious disease in the world, threatening especially those most vulnerable.

The International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations, supported by The World Health Students’ Alliance, a coalition of The International Association of Dental Students, the International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations, the International Veterinary Students’ Association and the International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation, would like to denote its reverence to the WHO and UN for their success in raising awareness on the importance and urgency of ending TB. As members of The World Health Students’ Alliance and representatives of various professions in healthcare, we support the WHO’s One Health approach.

With the High-Level Meeting on TB approaching fast, we need to grasp this golden opportunity to gather binding global support for eliminating TB. With an ever-growing list of priorities, gaining the public and political interest is challenging, but it is crucial in attaining the targeted reduction in both the death rates and the incidence of TB.

We therefore call on member states to:

- Develop new, safe and effective vaccines and medication to reduce the spread of both drug sensitive and drug resistant tuberculosis,
- Incorporate the eradication of tuberculosis as an integral part of the fight against antimicrobial resistance and the goal to reach Universal Health Care
- Focus more on identifying policy implementation gaps so that only rational treatments with adherence monitoring are used to fight tuberculosis.

We call on the WHO to continue their efforts in providing member states with the adequate support they need to integrate the elimination of TB into the larger fight against antimicrobial resistance. This multi-faceted approach will not only save lives but will do so in a faster and more efficient manner.

Thank you.