



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

Statement of International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) 68th WHO RC for Europe, Rome, Italy 17-20 September 2018

Countries at the centre: the strategic role of country offices in the WHO European Region

We, the IFMSA, applaud the efforts of WHO in preparation of this report and showing high interest to the work of country offices. We believe that maintaining similar visits in the future will result in a better understanding of internal challenges and resources in the countries, empower country offices in their work and encourage WHO and Member States to prepare a collaboration plan that reflects on their specific situation.

Adoption of the General Program of Work had been the first step in bringing changes to the communities, and the whole process requires tremendous work at the grass roots. The presence of WHO in the countries is playing significant role in initiating actions and tailoring to country's needs.

The report showed how many goals the WHO country offices, governments and NGOs have in common when advocating for good health and wellbeing. Partnerships make the work more cost-effective, aims achievable and outcomes impactful. Therefore, it is essential for member states to build partnerships between every sector, share data and resources, and recognize civil society, especially youth, as a partner. Involving young people in the decision making and implementation processes will bring new perspectives and lead to achieving sustainable and long-lasting impact.

We would like to emphasize that the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations is represented in 125 countries worldwide with 46 from Member States of the WHO European Region. Our members, who are the future healthcare professionals, work on topics, mentioned in the report, such as antimicrobial resistance, tobacco control and importance of vaccinations, on local, national and international level. IFMSA and many other non-state actors can contribute to increase the impact of GPW 13 at country level. And therefore, we emphasize the importance of involving youth, healthcare students and young healthcare professionals to achieve meaningful youth participation in the GPW 13.

Only by bringing all the stakeholders together we can fulfil even the most ambitious goals.