



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

World Health Organisation

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International Federation of Medical Students' Associations on Agenda Item 16.2: Noncommunicable Diseases

Honorable Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) represent the largest and even growing proportion of the global burden of disease. In addition to their mortality burden, NCDs have major economic consequences worldwide. Premature deaths from NCDs are largely preventable, and many are mainly driven by four big risk factors: physical inactivity, unhealthy diets, tobacco use, and the harmful use of alcohol. These risk factors are interrelated, and rooted in social, political, economic, cultural, environmental and commercial factors that are often outside of an individuals' control. Underfunding, lack of social mobilization, and conflicts of interest with the private sector make NCDs a challenging public health space, but also creates an interesting opportunity for coordinated and multi-sectoral action.

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) affirms that urgent action is needed in preventing, controlling and managing NCDs and that this action should be multi-sectoral by nature. Because the four main categories of NCDs – cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases, cancers and diabetes - share common risk factors there is a potential for coordinated preventive action to tackle them as a group. The World Health Organization NCD Action Plan 2013-2020 has set concrete steps to achieve meaningful progress in NCD prevention and control. Last, the global youth has a powerful role to play in regard to NCDs, both as a vulnerable and powerful group.

Therefore, IFMSA calls member states to:

1. Recognize NCDs as a major public health threat, particularly in Low- and Middle-Income Countries;
2. Take affirmative steps to rectify social and economic disadvantages, with a view to reducing the burden of NCDs;
3. Shift towards a preventive health model that addresses upstream determinants of health;
4. Invest more strongly in the prevention, control and management of NCDs, to correspond accurately with their disease burden;
5. Ensure that action taken is multi-sectoral by nature;
6. Prioritize the prevention of NCDs in youth
7. Ensure voices of young people are heard at all levels of society, recognizing that young people will be living in a world informed by decisions made today;

Thanks for your attention.

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