



# IFMSA

International Federation of  
Medical Students' Associations

Statement of the

## International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)

**Sixty-fifth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean**

**Agenda Item 5 (d):**

### ***Development of the road map on access to medicines and vaccines***

Honourable Chair,  
Distinguished delegates,

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations strongly believes that access to affordable medicines, vaccines and diagnostics is a human right and find it unacceptable that 1/3rd of the world's population still does not have regular access. Each year, 800 million people are forced to pay more than 10% of their household budget on healthcare, putting them at risk of extreme poverty due to catastrophic spending on health.

The IFMSA is aware of the significant barrier to access medicines caused by Free trade agreements such as TRIPS, TPP and TTIP. These agreements strengthen global patent monopolies, restrict generic production and therefore reduce the availability of affordable medicines. Furthermore, the patent system leads to high prices and incentivizes exploitative practice such as "Evergreening". Lastly, Lack of transparency in the current research and development system leads to duplication, high costs in accessing data and hinders transparent drug pricing negotiations, therefore, it is ineffective, unsustainable, does not meet the needs of the global poor populations and results in end products that are unaffordable.

We appreciate the efforts made to develop the strategic activities in the roadmap on access to medicines and vaccines, especially emphasizing on procurement and supply chain management, and appropriate prescribing. IFMSA, therefore, calls for:

- Universities and other publicly funded research institutions to adopt the global access licensing framework.
- All pharmaceutical companies to fully disclose the true costs of R&D to the public.
- WHO member states to begin negotiations on a binding agreement on R&D, as recommended by the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination (CEWG), and to support a coherent, sustainable and needs-driven agenda for a new approach to biomedical R&D.
- Governments to support innovative, needs driven, and sustainable R&D networks between high-income and low- and middle-income countries, to be built and strengthened via capacity building and technology sharing.

The IFMSA, representing 1.3 million medical students worldwide, believes that the current unequal distribution of essential medicines is unacceptable and that the human right to health is unattainable without affordable access to essential medicines.

Thank you.