



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 (e):**

Development of a draft global action plan on the health of refugees and migrants

Honourable chair,
Distinguished delegates,

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) commends the World Health Organization for its efforts to develop a global action plan on refugee and migrant health. We believe that this issue is an inalienable component of the roadmap towards achieving Universal Health Coverage and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Today's world is increasingly defined by human mobility. As host to some of today's most complex and protracted crises, not only does the Eastern Mediterranean Region produce more than half of the world's refugees, but it also hosts more than half of internally and forcibly displaced migrants. Unfortunately, refugees and migrants continue to be denied adequate access to quality healthcare and remain at an increased risk of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

IFMSA affirms that every individual, regardless of legal status, has the right to the best attainable standard of health without experiencing discrimination or financial hardship. The draft framework of priorities and guiding principles for refugee and migrant health submitted to the 70th WHA (A70/24) is a solid foundation for the global action plan. We also commend addressing the health aspects of migration in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration. IFMSA emphasizes the need to address the refugee and migrant health as a part of the response to the overall population's health needs, minimizing marginalization while strengthening existing health systems. We also call for granting refugees and migrants their full human rights, with equitable access to quality preventive, curative, promotive, and palliative health services. As medical students, we also stress the importance of training human resources for health to better deliver people-centered refugee- and migrant-sensitive health services that recognize their specific health needs – both physical and mental.

To keep true to the 2030 agenda to ensure health for all and leave no one behind, we must recognize refugee and migrant health as a global health priority.

Thank you.