



IFMSA
International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations



**Joint Statement of the
International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)
and the
International Association of Dental Students (IADS)
144th Executive Board Meeting of the World Health Organization
*Agenda Item 5.4 Implementation of the Agenda for Sustainable Development***

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates,

Achieving Health for All in 2030 is our common goal. We, the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations and the International Association of Dental Students, support the WHO in promoting a multisectoral and coordinated approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

However, several obstacles remain. Weak health systems should be targeted by comprehensive and integrated national plans. We emphasize the need to look at health through a framework that considers the entirety of its determinants, including social, environmental and commercial. Trade agreements and commercial lobbying influence our diets and shape our access to medicines. Housing and the surrounding environment are also major determinants of health. The achievement of SDG 3 is dependent on progresses in achieving all other 16 SDGs.

The path to a healthier world is one that must be walked together, in a multisectoral, youth-inclusive, synchronized effort that leaves no one behind. IFMSA and IADS support current efforts in developing intersectoral initiatives supporting research and the usage of new digital technologies for health systems strengthening. Nonetheless, we call on all actors to remember that half the globe is under 30, which means youth, as a demographic, cannot be left behind nor excluded from meaningfully participating in the political decision-making processes. The IFMSA and IADS applaud initiatives such as the United Nations Youth Strategy: Youth 2030 that show strong commitment at the highest level. However, ensuring sustainable engagement with youth and civil society organisations at the local and national level is imperative to build a generation of citizens committed to sustainable development.

We are not just future leaders, but essential partners at the decision-making table in the present. Allow us to meaningfully engage, and we will contribute towards a sustainable development strategy that achieves Health for All for generations to come.

Thank you