

**Joint Statement of the
International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)
and the
International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA)
144th Executive Board Meeting of the World Health Organization
*Agenda Item 5.4 Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework for the sharing of influenza viruses
and access to vaccines and other benefits***

Honourable chair, distinguished delegates,

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations and the International Veterinary Students' Association commend the work of the WHO on pandemic influenza preparedness and agrees with the assessment of the PIP Advisory Group that the scope of PIP should be maintained. Pandemic influenza epitomises the relevance of international cooperation for health security; it remains vital for all member states and relevant parties to work effectively with the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System. We implore all remaining member states to ratify and implement the Nagoya Protocol and then go further in supporting and upholding the principles of the framework, in terms of information sharing logistics, strains and speed.

The amendments to annex two of the PIP framework are essential to ensure that all actors relevant to PIP share data and information equitably and that private interests do not threaten our collective health security. Loopholes in such frameworks must be removed to ensure everyone plays their part and we commend the Director-General and their team for agreeing this is a reasonable and feasible provision. We urge the Executive Board members to support this recommendation, bring it before the seventy-second World Health Assembly and to implement it in their own nations as soon as possible. It is already within your power to affect this change.

We understand the PIP framework to not be a constraint but an egalitarian benefit sharing and protective instrument that can only serve to protect the world.

Thank you