



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

Statement of the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) 71st World Health Assembly

Agenda Item 12.6 Maternal, infant and young child nutrition

Honourable chair,
Distinguished delegates,

It is widely recognized that pregnant women and their babies need to be well-nourished, as nutritional status has a major impact on fetus' growth and development and forms the foundations for health later in life. The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations therefore supports Member States in their efforts to achieve six global targets by 2025 by implementing proven policies to improve maternal, infant and young child nutrition.

As future healthcare providers, we cannot underestimate our exposure to issues of conflict of interest. The proposed "*Approach for the prevention and management of conflicts of interest in the policy development and implementation of nutrition programmes at country level*" tool has the potential to serve in ensuring that all stakeholders involved in working towards our goals do so in a transparent manner, free of influence from external actors.

We therefore call on member states to:

- Continue to monitor progress towards nutrition targets as set out in the Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition Plan and to follow the six steps as outlined.
- Take strong action to ensure that Conflicts of Interest are avoided.
- Address the importance of recognizing conflicts of interest within training and education of future healthcare professionals
- Make provisions to accommodate member states who may not have the adequate resources to implement the specific mitigation as outlined in the tools

We call on the WHO to continue their efforts in providing member states with the adequate support they need in the implementation and the monitoring of the first results.

To conclude, we reinforce our position on the matter, it is only by acknowledging the issue of conflicts of interest as a major threat to the achievement of the improvement of maternal, infant and young child nutrition, we can truly move forward.

Thank you.