



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

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IFMSA delegation at WHO EB138:
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Agenda item: 5.5 Framework of engagement with non-State actors

Honourable chair,
Distinguished delegates,

We, the IFMSA (International Federation of Medical Students' Associations), are honoured to be a non-State actor of the WHO and highly appreciate our current opportunities to contribute to improve global health through the means that WHO provides.

We highlight the importance and the efforts made to reach integrity, independence, credibility and a good reputation of the WHO. Furthermore, we would like to express our utmost desire of more involvement of non-State Actors that go along with the regulations mentioned in the framework to shape a better future.

As medical students we want to take part in agreements around global health policies, as we unfortunately watch up-close how insufficient current policies are on a daily basis and wish to see that change for the sake of a healthier global community.

However, there are some alarming concerns that we would like to raise. First of all, we would like to bring to your attention, that in comparison to some other UN agencies, there is no mechanism within WHO to involve young people into global health issues nationally and internationally. We would like to call for a more meaningful youth involvement in WHO, which is very much needed, as we, medical students, have observed.

Secondly, the term non-State actor includes a diverse group of actors with very different, potentially contradicting, interests. In other political negotiations, the direct involvement of the industry, such as in the trade agreements TTIP and TPP, has proven not to be in the best interest of the populations, and potentially damaging public health significantly. Thereby, we would like to raise our concern around the potential consequences of equally involving the industry despite the suggested precautions.

Thank you for your attention