



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

WHO Executive Board Meeting 138th session Geneva, 25-30 January 2016

IFMSA delegation at WHO EB138:
Kornelija Maceviciute (Vice-President for External Affairs)
Marie Haverslev (Liaison Officer to WHO)
Paniz Motaghi (General Delegate)
Eslam Amr Ahmed (General Delegate)
Aziz Mert Ipekci (General Delegate)

Agenda Item 6.3 - Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases: response to specific assignments in preparation for the third High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable diseases in 2018.

Honorable chair,
Distinguished delegates,

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations would like to congratulate the report on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. We recognize the urgency to decrease the global burden of NCDs and reduce the worldwide morbidity and mortality related to them.

It is crucial to shift health care systems from the current vertical approach to a more integrated primary care model with greater emphasis on patient empowerment. Prevention and treatment of NCDs should play a substantial role in health care systems and a horizontal model of services represents a more suitable approach.

The industry must recognize the potential health threats of products which hold risk factors, such as fatty foods, alcoholic beverages and tobacco. We call on governments to create and fully implement more responsible and binding legislations to limit the exposure of the public to such high-risk NCDs factors. Moreover, to build strategies that tackle social inequalities and reduce health gaps between socioeconomic groups, since we know that around 80% of mortality due to NCDs are in low and middle income settings.

We call for more involvement of non-governmental organisations, especially of youth-led and youth-driven clusters, for better tailored youth-oriented programmes about NCDs awareness and prevention, locally, regionally and globally.

NCDs must be a part of the global research agenda. Also by promoting, translating and disseminating ethical research, debating best practices for NCD prevention and control, most suitable for the cultural and regional settings, it will allow to create a more proactive approach to combat NCDs.

We support the activities within the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, which IFMSA is also taking part of, and wish for a larger scale of activities, in which more NGOs would be able to take part.

Thank you for your attention.