



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)
and the
International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA)
144th Executive Board Meeting of the World Health Organization
*Agenda Item 7.3 Engagement with non-state actors***

Honourable chair, distinguished delegates,

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations welcomes the continued efforts by the WHO to increase its engagement with non-state actors as part of the Transformation Agenda. Indeed, the ambitious triple billion targets of the General Program of Work cannot be achieved without meaningful participation of all actors in global health.

We would like to draw attention to the recommendations of the WHO-Civil Society Organisation Task Team that IFMSA participated in, particularly those that foster engagement of young people in health decision-making at the national, regional and international level. Youth should be systematically consulted in the development of national policy, including Country Cooperation Strategies, to ensure that the next generation contributes to long term and strategic policy for better health.

The recommendations call for 1-2 dedicated positions for civil society organisations within Member State delegations at WHO meetings. We implore Member States to ensure one of these positions is for a Youth Delegate who can consult with, and represent the needs of, young people. This has been implemented successfully by a number of Member States.

Additionally, we support the development of an Inclusivity Advisory and Oversight Group to provide formal support to the WHO on gender, youth, equity, and rights. IFMSA works closely with the Senior Advisor on Gender and Youth and looks forward to many collaborations in the future.

We are thankful to the WHO for recognising the IFMSA's contributions to global health through our recommendation for renewed Official Relations status. We remain one of two youth organisations in Official Relations and are proud to support others by including their representatives in our delegations. The International Association of Dental Students and the International Veterinary Students Associations are valuable collaborators and we support their bid to enter into Official Relations, too.

Thank you