IFMSA International Federation of Medical Students' Associations

WFOT World Federation of Occupational Therapists

ERS EUROPEAN RESPIRATORY SOCIETY every breath counts

epha european public health alliance

COTEC Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries

Statement on: 5(a) Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its relation to Health 2020

66th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe

Honorable chair,
Distinguished guests,

IFMSA, WFOT, COTEC, EPHA, EFMA and ERS welcome the initiative to create a roadmap for the implementation of the health aspects of the 2030 agenda, and hopes that it can complement Health 2020 in ensuring healthy lives for all of Europe. Leaving no one behind and reaching those furthest behind first is an overarching principle of the 2030 agenda. We hope that the future roadmap will honor this principle, and build on the Health 2020 goal of decreasing health inequity within and between countries in the region.

To achieve this, national and regional priorities and indicators must be developed taking into account not only the primary health challenges for the general population, but pay specific attention to the health needs of vulnerable and marginalized populations. Generation of evidence and disaggregated data collection is crucial to identify, understand and address such needs.

We recognize the interlinked nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the impact of economic, commercial, environmental - such as air pollution - and social determinants of health. We fully agree with the proposed whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach to achieve the health targets, and stress that a similar approach must be used to address the health needs of those furthest left behind.

Furthermore, Health 2020 points out the importance of health as a cross-sectoral issue and the need to adapt health education accordingly, which we would like to reinforce. To achieve the health aspects of sustainable development, we need a health workforce that understands health as an outcome of both individual and environmental factors and is ready to take action and advocate on behalf of their patients both inside and outside of the health care setting.

This requires a health curricula that takes into account the economic, commercial environmental and social determinants of health, and that address health inequities and recognizes the long-term role of sustainable development in improving health. We are committed to a whole-of-society approach to health, and ask for a health education system that encourages and prepares health professionals to take on active leadership roles in creating healthy societies and citizens.

Thank you for your attention.

Supporters of this Statement:

- **IFMSA:** International Federation of Medical Students Associations
- **EFMA:** The European Forum of Medical Associations is a forum of national associations of physicians across the WHO European Region
- **EPHA:** European Public Health Alliance
- **WFOT:** World Federation of Occupational Therapists
- **COTEC:** European organization for all Occupational Therapists through their National Associations, with the purpose of ensuring an adequate number of high quality occupational therapy practitioners and services in Europe.
- **ERS:** European Respiratory Society