IFMSA
International Federation of Medical Students' Associations

IFMSA Statement on: 5(i) Action Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health: towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Europe – leaving no one behind

66th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations welcomes the European action plan for sexual and reproductive health. As an organization with a strong focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights, we encourage the implementation of Sustainable Development Agenda target 3.7. - Universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services by 2030, since the right to sexual and reproductive health is an essential component of the right to complete health and wellbeing.

While committing to this plan of action, it is of paramount importance to ensure that all member states adhere to the agreements, have the adequate resources and will to achieve the sustainable development goals, by implementing a proper monitoring, evaluation and follow-up system.

Secondly, it is essential to ensure empowerment of the health workforce executing this action plan. As medical students of today and future healthcare professionals, we can still experience a lack of support and education in such topics, in all parts of the world, including the European region, which needs to be tackled in order to achieve a meaningful implementation.

Lastly, we believe that it is every woman's human right to have full autonomy over decisions related to when and how many children to have. There are, however, still European countries with strict abortion laws and policies as well as stigma on abortion related issues. Access to legal and safe abortion is essential to lower maternal mortality. Therefore, IFMSA encourages all governments to provide safe, legal and accessible abortion in order to minimise unintended pregnancies and unsafe procedures, with its accompanying detrimental physiological, financial and mental consequences.