



# IFMSA

International Federation of  
Medical Students' Associations

**Statement of the  
International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)  
70th World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization  
Agenda Item 13.1 Human resources for health and implementation of the  
outcomes of the United Nations' High-Level Commission on Health Employment  
and Economic Growth**

Honourable chair,  
Distinguished delegates,

Our health landscape is changing at a rapid pace. We are being faced with an ageing population, new emerging diseases, environmental instability, international conflicts, and suboptimal working conditions. It is urgent that our health workforce be prepared to respond to these challenges.

We, the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, representing more than a million medical students worldwide from 124 countries, would like stand by the High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth recommendations as well the 5 Year Action Plan's focus on youth empowerment and transformative medical education.

Investment in the health workforce is a step towards socioeconomic gains in quality education, gender equality, decent work and inclusive economic growth. The health sector is a growing source of employment and an increased opportunity for all, especially women and young people.

As physicians of tomorrow, we foresee the global challenges related to health workforce planning, deficit, quality assurance, distribution, and migration. We would like to underline that simply increasing the number of health professionals graduating from education programs is not enough.

We urge Member States to assure quality in education through mandatory accreditations and admissions planning of academic institutions according to the World Federation for Medical Education Global Standards, and to ensure that the national frameworks, curricula, assessment tools and legal frameworks meet the requirements for a qualified modern health workforce.

Member States must advance international recognition of health workers' qualifications to optimize skill use, increase the benefits from, and reduce the negative effects of health worker migration, and safeguard migrants' rights.

To invest in a strong health workforce, is to build a solid foundation to meet the ultimate goal of Universal Health Coverage.

Thank you.