



# 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 16.3 Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents'  
Health (2016-2030): Adolescents' Health**

Honourable chair,  
Distinguished delegates,

Adolescence has been identified as a crucial stage that lays the foundation for a healthy, informed, educated and socially cohesive life. We, as future healthcare providers, are glad to see topics such as autonomous decision making, mental health issues, sexual and reproductive health and rights, NCD risk factors and access to youth friendly services being incorporated in the global agenda.

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations acknowledges the enabling framework of the Global Strategy and welcomes all parties investing their time and efforts to advocate for better health and wellbeing for women, children and adolescents. However, much remains to be done and WHO needs to urge member States to streamline their efforts toward tackling the core issues that cause poor health outcomes on newborns, children and adolescents.

Thus, we urge Member States to:

- Tackle the barriers that prevent adolescents from accessing proper Sexual and Reproductive Health services as well as Comprehensive Sexuality Education. Lack of access to these services leads to severe negative consequences, such as an increased number of unintended pregnancies, a higher risk of HIV and STI acquisition and in general less informed choices.
- Respond to the health needs of adolescents by supporting and using the recently launched Global accelerated action for the health of adolescents (or AA-HA!) Framework to further advance the country implementation of the Global Strategy.

In light of the above, we reinforce our position to put adolescent health at the core of every action. It is only by taking coordinated steps, considering adolescents and youth as active agents of change and holding relevant stakeholders accountable that we can truly push forward the goals set in the Global Strategy and ensure well-being and health at all stages of life.

Thank you for your attention,