

**Statement of the
International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)
Continuation of the 73rd World Health Assembly
*Item 13.2 WHO's work in health emergencies***

Honorable President, distinguished delegates,

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations recognizes the imperative role played by WHO and its Member States in the response to global health and humanitarian emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

Civil society organizations in official relations with the WHO represent a large portion of frontline health workers. As IFMSA, for example, we represent over 1.3 million medical students that have been leading global efforts to address the emergency health needs of their communities. Yet, the engagement with civil society has dropped steeply, reducing the sharing of valuable perspectives at WHO meetings and consultations to almost none.

We appreciate the Director-General's support to recover this engagement, but we strongly call on WHO and Member States to meaningfully engage, protect and support young health workers, locally and globally, reaching further than our short statement here today.

Thank you.

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