

Statement of the:
**International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)
and the World Medical Association (WMA) and
the International Pediatric Association**

74th World Health Assembly

Item 13.4 Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property, 13.6 Substandard and falsified medical products and 13.7 Standardization of medical devices nomenclature

Honourable Chairperson, distinguished delegates,

The implications of the COVID-19 pandemic have disproportionately affected vulnerable populations and highlighted global inequalities in the provision of health services and the distribution of essential medicines. However, the scarcity and unequal availability of health technologies predate the pandemic and pose a major challenge to global health.

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, the World Medical Association, and the International Pediatric Association strongly believe that access to essential medicines and health technologies represents the enforcement of the right to health and the idea of global solidarity and equity. Delivering on all essential medicines and products, including those on the WHO model lists of essential medicines and of essential medicines for children, are critically needed to achieve global goals. Furthermore, strengthening the local production of medicines and technologies is crucial to achieving universal health coverage and sustainable development in all countries.

We support WHO's leadership in implementing equitable access to health innovation and thus acknowledge the efforts put into the global strategy and plan of action on public health innovation and intellectual property.

We, therefore, call upon the WHO to support all Member States in the development and implementation of evidence-based and effective health technologies, ensuring their equitable distribution between *and* within countries. We urge the WHO to support the Member States in their efforts to increase population health literacy through modern technologies.

Moreover, we call upon the Member States to guarantee access to innovations in healthcare to *all* members of society. Progress should benefit everyone, *particularly* those in need.

Lastly, as future health leaders and "digital natives" with a unique and valuable perspective today, we urge the Member States to engage young people in education, development, and implementation of health innovations, thus contributing towards building resilient health systems whilst ensuring sustainable human development.

Thank you.