

**Statement of the
International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)
74th World Health Assembly**

Item 17.3 WHO's work in health emergencies & Item 18 Mental health preparedness for and response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Honourable Chairperson, distinguished delegates,

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations commends the WHO on its work to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, while also underlining that increased resilience is key to facing future health emergencies more successfully. We recognize the undeniable global burden of physical and mental health conditions, which is further exacerbated by health emergencies, whose impacts are preventable by adequate preparedness.

We call upon the WHO and the Member States to provide youth with more inclusive platforms, allowing our meaningful engagement in the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of action plans such as the updated comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2030, to secure strong post-pandemic recovery and improved resilience for future emergencies while ensuring that vulnerable groups and key stakeholders, including youth, are not left behind.

Thank you.