

**Statement of the
International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)
74th World Health Assembly
Item 22.1 Social Determinants of Health**

Honourable Chairperson, distinguished delegates,

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations recognizes the overarching influence of social determinants of health on health equity and the overall health status of communities. This intersectionality of health has added different dimensions to the effects of COVID-19.

The pandemic has disproportionately affected vulnerable populations including youth. Marginalization has been further re-emphasized, with emergency responses being insensitive to different vulnerabilities. The fragility of health systems and economies magnified existing gaps in health equity, both within and across borders.

Therefore, we call upon member states to ensure equitable mobilization of resources and promote a rights-based approach to their health systems including their future health emergency preparedness to minimize health inequities and fulfil the right to health.

Thank you.