

**Statement of the
International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)
74th World Health Assembly
*Item 34.1 Progress Reports***

Honourable Chairperson, distinguished delegates,

The International Federation of Medical Students Associations recognizes the current global challenges for the health of migrants and populations on the move.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in special aftermath for migrants and populations on the move, exacerbating existing, and creating new, susceptibilities. The pandemic has re-emphasized refugees' predicament from the suboptimal standards of living, overpopulating refugee camps and immigrant communities, to labour exploitation with little to no health security. Furthermore, the infodemic resulted in the spread of stigmatization and increased discrimination, adding further barriers and halting efforts and progress towards the inclusion of migrants in their new societies. Eventually, access to medicines and healthcare services has also been affected.

We recall the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration and call upon the WHO and member states to reflect on the Global Action Plan on Promoting the health of refugees and migrants in light of what the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed: the severity of existing health inequities and its implication on the health of migrants and refugees.

Therefore, we call on member states to ensure the inclusion of populations on the move in health policies and programming to minimize health inequities and to ensure accessible, affordable, timely, comprehensive, inclusive, and quality healthcare to all; establish and reinforce comprehensive national migrant health policies that respect human rights, are multi-sectoral, participatory, and inclusive for migrants and civil society, the private sector, youth including future health workers and other key actors and ensuring that national migrant health policies are based on the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the extension of Universal Health Coverage (UHC); Include migrants and refugees' health as a priority in post-COVID planning and recovery as well as in the vaccination programs.

Thank you.