

Statement of the:
International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)
Special Session of the World Health Assembly

*Item 2. Consideration of the benefits of developing a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response with a view towards the establishment of an intergovernmental process to draft and negotiate such a convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response, taking into account the report of the Working Group on Strengthening WHO Preparedness and Response to Health Emergencies
Documents SSA2/3 and SSA2/4*

Honourable Chairperson, distinguished delegates,

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, supported by the International Veterinary Students' Association, commends the effort by Member States and the WHO towards the pandemic treaty in synergy with the IHR, whilst officially recognizing that a whole-of-society approach is essential. However, the current convention process has failed to meaningfully include youth and civil society, as illustrated again today. 'Leaving no one behind' should not be a rhetorical statement, but an integrated and sustained effort.

We call on you, Member States and the WHO, to ensure an enabling environment for youth engagement in this historical convention and all high-level WHO Meetings. As one of the biggest demographics in the world - contributing to battling this pandemic - youth's unique perspective is essential to ensure a safer world, today and tomorrow.

Thank you.