

**Statement of the  
International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) &  
International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF)**

Session: Agenda Item 2 : Annual Regional Director Report

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Moderator, dear colleagues,

The International Federation of Medical Students Associations, and the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation would like to commend the Regional Director and WHO Eastern Mediterranean Office on the tremendous efforts exerted to fulfil the region's vision 2023 and achieve health for all by all.

As mentioned in the annual report, partnerships at both the regional and country levels are essential to enhance the reach of WHO technical programmes, increase WHO's leverage and ensure effective multisectoral action.

Youth, as the largest demographic in the region and as positive change agents have the potential to contribute towards building resilient nations whilst ensuring sustainable human development and quality of life for generations to come. Consequently, we believe that youth should be educated, empowered and engaged in decisions that directly affect them, including designing, implementing, and monitoring interventions. However, worldwide, youth face multiple challenges in terms of access to equal opportunities and involvement in decision making processes which affect their lives and future.

Therefore, we call on the WHO and Member states to ensure the meaningful engagement of youth on both the regional and country level through:

- Strengthening and supporting regional and international youth networks that provide platforms for youth to share and exchange culture, knowledge and experience.
- Providing technical assistance, funding and investment benefiting opportunities for youth led organisations and entities
- Developing national policies which ensure youth participation in social and economic development and support youth efforts in decision-making processes related to health

Thank you,

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