

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

Session: Agenda Item 4J: Global Health and Peace initiative

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69th Session of WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean
- Cairo, Egypt/Hybrid

Honourable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

The Eastern Mediterranean Region has long struggled with recurrent and prolonged issues of violence, including political unrest, wars, conflicts, and structural violence among others. 66% of the world's refugees are from the region, along with the number of internally displaced persons that is continuously increasing. From a health perspective, conflicts continue to transcend the disruption of peace into having devastating effects on health systems, health determinants, healthcare accessibility and overall health outcomes.

As we promote and build peace, let us not forget youth, as they are the present and future. As one of the biggest student and youth organisations in the world, the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations would like to applaud the work done by the WHO on the Global Health for Peace Initiative, and the efforts of the WHO Regional Office in pushing it forward within the regional context.

As such, We as IFMSA call on member states on the following points:

1. To centralise peace in developing and implementing all health-related policies and activities anchoring the international human rights law and its principles for guidance.
2. To ensure the protection of civilians, especially youth and children, at times of armed conflict and emergencies including post-conflict periods from all forms of violence, while paying close attention and prioritising efforts to ensure the non-compromisation in their access to essential health services.
3. To continuously promote peace-related concepts and approaches in health and non-health-related areas through mechanisms that aim to raise awareness, support research and initiatives that aim to generate evidence and data, and openly reject and oppose all instances that contradict peaceful values.

We further call on the World Health Organisation to:

1. Continue a wider discussion and evidence generation on the interlinkages between peace and health and prioritising the development of conflict-sensitive healthcare systems across all policies, strategies and frameworks.

2. Effectively and actively work on engaging member states as well as all relevant stakeholders in the development of the initiative through curating spaces that are inclusive and comprehensive while acknowledging contextual diversity and its effects on such issues.

Thank you,

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