



Statement of the
International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)
77th Regional Committee for the WHO South East Asia Region

Provisional Agenda Item #9.6
Monitoring Progress and Acceleration Plan for NCDs, including oral health and integrated eye-care in the South East-Asia region

Honourable Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

The burden of Non Communicable Diseases is rising at an alarming rate in the South East Asia region, and it poses a significant, persistent public health threat as NCDs have lasting social, financial, mental, and physical consequences, also disproportionately affecting disadvantaged populations.

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) affirms the urgent need for multisectoral, socially accountable approaches to combat the threat of rising NCDs. Integrated prevention and intervention programs and comprehensive policy-making are required from international and national stakeholders to achieve NCD targets in the 2030 SDG. We sincerely thank the World Health Organization and its Member States for their unwavering efforts in addressing this crucial issue.

IFMSA also stresses that the current inequities in the prevention and treatment of NCDs across South East Asia are unjust and require mobilization of resources to ensure no part of the population is left behind.

We call upon Member States to:

- Implement and accelerate a multi-sectoral, accountable and sustainable strategy to address the rising burden of NCDs, recognising commercial, structural and social determinants of NCDs by adopting a Health-in-all-Policies approach.
- Address the unequal distribution of NCDs within populations, and the disproportionate burdens on lower socioeconomic groups, culturally and linguistically diverse populations, Indigenous populations, and refugee and migrant populations, by designing and implementing culturally safe policies and programs.
- Strengthen NCD Primary Health Care service delivery through community-led approaches, and promote population-based primordial prevention campaigns.

Further, IFMSA firmly believes that the role of young people in addressing and combating the burden of NCDs is crucial by establishing an accountable and inclusive approach through sustainable solutions.

Meaningful youth engagement in the NCDs sector can render an accountable momentum and paramount influence, and we firmly advocate for the inclusion of youth as stakeholders in the global NCD agenda.

We would like to conclude by calling upon WHO to continue spearheading efforts in tackling NCDs, including multilateral involvement with Member States, NSAs and CSOs, as well as Youth Networks, to continue targeted advocacy and programmatic solutions for NCDs that are equitable, inclusive, accountable and representative of the needs of all populations.

Thank you for your attention.

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