



Statement of the

International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)

77th Regional Committee for the WHO South East Asia Region

Provisional Agenda Item #9.7

Advancing health emergency preparedness and response in the WHO South-East Asia Region

**Honourable Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Healthcare Emergencies can strike any nation at any time, underscoring the necessity of a global system that enables cross-professional, organizational, and national collaboration. This system must be capable of swift and effective action to save lives while mitigating the immediate and long-term consequences of crises. We express our sincere gratitude to the World Health Organization and its Member States for their unwavering efforts in addressing this crucial issue.

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) asserts that preventing Health Emergencies is vital to minimize any crisis's health, social, and economic impact. We emphasize the critical need for sustained investment in health and public systems to ensure early detection and rapid response to acute health crises.

We call for governments to:

- Fortify sufficient resources and funding to strengthen healthcare systems and emergency preparedness, including developing efficient response plans and establishing adequate infrastructure to address health emergencies effectively.
- Collaborate with international partners, regional organizations, and neighboring countries to enhance coordination, information sharing, and join response efforts during health emergencies, thus ensuring a unified and coordinated approach
- Set up national surveillance systems capable of identifying health emergencies in 'hard-to-reach' areas, especially in rural settings

We would like to end by calling upon the WHO to continue bolstering its leadership role in coordinating global Health Emergency responses by improving decision-making processes, mobilizing resources promptly, and communicating transparently with member states and other stakeholders. We are confident that our collective efforts will strengthen global preparedness for future Health Emergencies.

Thank you for your attention.

Contact Person:

Mr. Sharif Mohammed Sadat (rdasiapacific@ifmsa.org)