



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

High-Level Ministerial Meeting on Health Employment and Economic Growth

14-15 December 2016, Geneva, Switzerland

Statement to be delivered by Omar Cherkaoui, IFMSA President

Your Excellencies, Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to speak today on behalf of 1.3 million medical students from more than a hundred countries all over the world.

We, the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA), would like to take this opportunity to thank the WHO, ILO and OECD for hosting this high-level meeting. This event will help renew the political commitment to address the health workforce crisis, and the five-year action plan will set out a clear vision to achieve the implementation of the Commission's recommendations.

During our daily practice, we contemplate the challenges faced globally related to health workforce planning, forecasting, deficit, quality assurance, distribution, and migration. These issues transcend national borders and pose a threat to realizing Universal Health Coverage and achieving progress on the Sustainable Development Goals targets.

Increasing the number of health professionals graduating from education programs will not be enough. The current shortage is compounded by the fact that the skills, competencies, clinical experiences and expectations of the health workforce are often poorly suited to the healthcare needs of the population they serve. We need to ensure medical schools are socially accountable, and take into account the needs of the communities they serve.

We believe that health education should reflect societal priorities and needs, while providing tools for quality, equitable, relevant and effective health care delivery. IFMSA currently sits on the executive councils of the World Federation for Medical Education and the Association for Medical Education in Europe. We therefore commit to keep advocating for improved accreditation standards, especially in the setting of discussions on global health workforce

In accordance with the third recommendation of the commission, the IFMSA is engaged in improving the World Directory of Medical Schools, as well as the Global Standards on Medical Education, led by the WFME, organizing workshops regarding these issues and capacitating medical students with knowledge and advocacy skills, as well as continuing on representing medical students in important forums such as the Global Health Workforce Network of the World Health Organisation.

Medical students worldwide are fully committed today to play their role in improving health outcomes and work hand in hand with all relevant partners and stakeholders to achieve greater equity in health locally, nationally, regionally and globally.

To invest into health workforce is to invest into a brighter future.

Thank you,

medical
students
worldwide