honurable Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

The International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations (IFMSA) commends the political commitment and sustained progress made by Member States to strengthen investment in human resources for health (HRH) despite the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In light of crucial challenges highlighted in the progress report, IFMSA believes that continuous support from governments, medical universities, and healthcare facilities to institutions that serve marginalized and rural communities is vital. The provided technical assistance given to these institutions in implementing innovative, sustainable, accessible, and socially accountable health professionals education and training that focus on primary healthcare for—both pre-service & in-service training—is pivotal to help ensure the rural retention of trained health workers and are key towards the attainment of UHC.

IFMSA reiterates the importance of strengthening and optimizing HRH, with emphasis on primary health care teams which focus on the pillars of patient-centric care and social accountability. Hence, IFMSA calls upon Member States to increase funding and investment to strengthen and build capacity of health professionals as well as ensure equity, diversity, and inclusion within the health workforce to provide better care close to communities.

We further urge Member States to meaningfully engage youth and young health professionals in policy and programmes design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation for the Decade for Human Resources for Health Strengthening Agenda. Furthermore, we advocate for increased collaboration between healthcare students coalitions like IFMSA, to build health leaders that adequately understand the need to work towards improvements within the health workforce education and training, now and in future.

Thank you for your attention.

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