

International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA)

Agenda 9.1- Building health systems resilience to climate change, and Extension of the Framework for Action on building health systems resilient to climate change in the WHO South-East Asia Region 2017–2022 till 2027

Climate change is not a distant threat—it is a present and escalating reality already straining health systems across the South-East Asia Region. Intensified floods and cyclones, rising heat stress, and outbreaks of vector-borne diseases are pushing systems beyond capacity. The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) recognizes the urgency of building health systems that are not only resilient to these impacts but also proactive in mitigating future risks.

We support the extension of the 2017–2022 Framework for Action on building climate-resilient health systems to 2027. This extension must be more than continuity—it must drive enhanced commitment and accelerated implementation.

Key priorities include:

Embedding health considerations into NDCs, NAPs, and climate finance strategies, ensuring health is central to climate action.

Ensuring healthcare facilities urgently adopt climate-resilient, sustainable, and net-zero carbon strategies, in line with IFMSA's commitment to fossil fuel divestment and renewable energy.

Integrating climate and health education into medical curricula, equipping future professionals with the competencies to address climate-related health challenges.

Advancing a just transition away from fossil fuels, prioritizing equity and protecting vulnerable and marginalized populations from climate-related health impacts.

Investing in monitoring of climate-sensitive diseases, disaster preparedness, and rapid response capacities.

The IFMSA, representing 1.5 million medical students worldwide, stands ready to collaborate with WHO SEARO and Member States to advance these objectives. Together, we can build health systems that are resilient, equitable, and sustainable in the face of climate change—safeguarding the health of communities today and for generations to come.