

International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA)

Agenda 9.9- Delhi Declaration on improving access to essential medical products in the Region and beyond

IFMSA commends the WHO and Member States for the Delhi Declaration, emphasizing equitable access to essential medical products. Medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, and health technologies are the foundation of effective health systems, yet WHO estimates that up to 30% of people in the South-East Asia Region lack reliable access to essential medicines, and vaccine coverage gaps persist in rural and marginalized communities. Supply chain disruptions, high costs, and regulatory barriers exacerbate inequities.

Improving access is not only a technical challenge - it is a matter of equity and human rights. Vulnerable populations, including rural, low-income, and marginalized groups, face disproportionate barriers, widening health disparities and undermining Universal Health Coverage. For example, shortages of insulin, antibiotics, and essential diagnostics contribute to preventable morbidity and mortality, while inequitable vaccine distribution limits pandemic preparedness.

We, the IFMSA, representing 1.5 million medical students worldwide, urge WHO and Member States to:

Strengthen supply chains, local production capacity, and equitable distribution of essential medical products.

Implement transparent, evidence-based policies to ensure affordability and accessibility for all.

Engage youth and future health professionals in advocacy, research, and community outreach.

Monitor and evaluate progress using disaggregated data to ensure equity, accountability, and impact.

Ensuring access to essential medical products is vital to achieving health equity, strengthening health systems, and safeguarding the right to health. By implementing the Delhi Declaration with urgency and inclusivity, Member States can protect lives and advance regional and global health security.