

International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation

Agenda 9.7- Delhi Declaration on emergency preparedness in the South-East Asia Region

The International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation Asia Pacific Regional Office (IPSF APRO), representing over 35,000 pharmacy students and recent graduates from 10 member organizations across 6 countries in the WHO South-East Asia Region, and over 70,000 collectively in the Asia Pacific, commends the World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) and Member States for their commitment to addressing risks posed by emerging and re-emerging diseases, high-threat outbreaks, and natural disasters across the region.

Nearly 60-71% of emerging zoonotic diseases originate from poultry, livestock, and wildlife, emphasizing the urgent need to strengthen One Health efforts by reassessing the intersection between climate, animals, and plants to enhance regional preparedness.

We recognize the progress made in the Regional Strategic Roadmap for Health Security and Health System Resilience for Emergencies 2023-2027, which prioritizes increased investment and cross-sector collaboration to reduce vulnerabilities intensified by health emergencies.

IPSF APRO actively promotes interdisciplinary collaboration and leads regional advocacy to mobilize public health responses and improve natural disaster preparedness.

We call on the WHO and Member States to:

Highlight the vital role of pharmacists and pharmacy students in disease prevention and management, including research on novel therapeutics, patient counselling, and public health education;

Develop youth education initiatives that emphasize the importance of emergency preparedness within the region. Foster a stronger, interdisciplinary approach to regional emergency readiness by mobilising youth engagement and support.

Together, by advancing youth-driven, multisectoral partnerships, the South-East Asia Region can build resilient health systems capable of addressing current and future health threats.