

**Statement of the  
International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)  
High-Level Political Forum 2021**  
*Scenarios and possible medium and long-term trends related to the recovery from the COVID-19  
pandemic and the achievement of SDGs*

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Honorable President of the ECOSOC, madame Moderator, your excellencies,

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, representing almost 1.3 million medical students worldwide, is one of the largest and oldest youth-led organisations globally. Young people constitute one of the biggest demographic groups on the planet currently and are a driving force behind innovation, development and progress for the SDGs.

IFMSA recently launched a report about contributions of our members to the 2030 Agenda. It shows that in just two years 509 national and 43 international activities targeting all 17 SDGs were undertaken by medical students across all parts of the world. Several of these activities have been organised during the COVID-19 pandemic, while many of our members were in the frontlines battling the virus. This clearly shows the commitment of young people and leaders of tomorrow towards a more sustainable future leaving no one behind.

Still youth representation in decision making processes for the SDGs is lacking across all levels, local, national and international. This is why we strongly emphasise the need for inclusive participation of young people in policy processes, initiation of national strategies for SDGs implementation and VNRs drafting, which will help bounce back after COVID-19. We also call on member states to take into consideration the needs of young people and set into action mechanisms that will ensure a more gender, age, race and climate-sensitive approach to the SDGs. Finally, we urge all stakeholders to adopt the "Health in all Policies" approach for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, to mitigate among others the disruptive effects that the pandemic has had on progress for the SDGs.

Sustainable development is the key to a safe, fair and equal world for all. We are not here just to solve the problems of the present, but to shape the future of the next generations, of OUR generation. There must be no decisions for us without us. Youth is the future of SDGs!

Thank you for your attention.