

IFMSA Intervention Agenda Point 13.1

Meeting:

Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly
May 19th – 24th, 2014, Geneva, Switzerland

Agenda Item:

13.1 Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable diseases

Statement:

Speaking on behalf of the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) and the Young Professionals Chronic Disease Network (YP-CDN), we thank you for the opportunity to speak at this honorable assembly. The IFMSA represents more than one million medical students from around the world. The YP-CDN is a global multi-disciplinary community dedicated to NCD policy and social change.

As the next generation of health leaders, we laud the efforts and progress made through the WHO Global Action Plan (GAP) on NCDs to address the leading cause of preventable mortality and morbidity worldwide.

To move forward, the **global NCDs movement must shift from the global to the national level**. Although the WHO GAP has been approved and many countries have developed national strategies, a substantial proportion of them are not yet operational. Therefore, the outcome of the UN NCD Review and Assessment should encourage Member States not only to develop national targets and action plans, but also to ensure sufficient resource allocation for effective implementation.

It is also essential that Member States consider their youth community. Representing one fifth of the global population, **youth are a tremendous resource that is underutilized in the fight against NCDs**. The four WHO-identified NCD risk factors - tobacco use, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity and harmful use of alcohol - have their roots in adolescence. Therefore, behaviors of youth must be addressed in the early stages of life to win the fight against NCDs.

As the 2011 UN political declaration on NCDs recognizes the need for multisectoral action, a whole-of government approach, and collaborative partnerships at all levels, the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Global Coordination Mechanism (GCM) **need to include civil society as part of coordinating or additional advisory bodies**. Currently, the proposed working groups are the only way that NGOs can engage. To ensure the effective implementation of the GCM, voices of all levels of society must be represented.

IFMSA at a Glance

Founded in 1951, the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) is the world's oldest and largest independent organization representing medical students from around the world. While representing a network of an estimated 1.3 million medical students, IFMSA currently has 117 national member organizations from 110 countries. IFMSA is recognized as an international nongovernmental organization by the United

Nations and the World Health Organization and is a proud partner of various international bodies such as the World Medical Association.

Created to make a positive impact on the world, IFMSA has inspired generations of medical students to develop knowledge, skills, and attitude needed to take on current and emerging challenges in medicine and global health. Annually, IFMSA provides opportunities to medical students through its two general assemblies, five regional meetings, around 10,000 exchange program slots, hundreds of national and international projects, and dozens of international campaigns on issues ranging from climate change to global health equity.

YP-CDN at a Glance

The Young Professionals Chronic Disease Network (YP-CDN) is a global community dedicated to policy and advocacy work on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and social justice. It capitalizes on the energy, innovative thinking, and courage of young people to challenge the status quo. The YP-CDN participates in the local and global knowledge economy, by encouraging local action on NCDs in all regions of the world.

As a global community we use social media and virtual platforms to share knowledge and ideas. Our members are students and budding experts in their fields - public health professionals, doctors, sociologists, anthropologists, philosophers, nutritionists and architects - many of whom are already making important contributions to the reduction of the global NCD burden.