

Honorable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations is the unwavering voice of medical students, representing the needs and expectations of 1.5 million young people worldwide. We recognize that education is the cornerstone of a thriving society, a human right that shapes our future. As such, we demand that young people be included in the decision-making processes that determine the course of their education. Education should be a collaborative effort, bringing together young people, educators, policymakers, and civil society. Therefore, we urge decision-makers to create spaces for young people to share their views and ideas, provide training and support to enable their participation, and ensure that their voices are not only heard but valued. The engagement of young people in decision-making processes is vital to ensuring that education policies and practices are inclusive, equitable, and of high quality.

IFMSA recognizes that civil society organizations, including youth-led groups, are pivotal in promoting informal education. Our valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing young people in our communities are critical to creating a responsive and relevant education system that meets the needs of young people. Therefore, we call for the inclusion of civil society in all educational processes, including policy-making and curriculum development.

We stand by the Youth Declaration on Transforming Education and call upon governments and educational institutions worldwide to prioritize including evidence-based content on health in curricula such as comprehensive sexuality education. Comprehensive sexuality education is fundamental in ensuring young people's health and well-being, and its inclusion is paramount.

Comprehensive sexuality education provides young people with the information they need to make informed decisions about their health and well-being in a manner that is age-appropriate, culturally sensitive, and relevant to their lived experiences. It is essential for promoting healthy lifestyles, gender equality, human rights, and preventing violence and discrimination. By providing evidence-based information, young people feel empowered to make informed decisions about their health and bodies, leading to increased autonomy and agency and improved health outcomes.

The IFMSA believes that including comprehensive sexuality education in all education systems worldwide is critical to address health inequalities and promote health equity. Young people from marginalized communities often have less access to health information and resources. By providing comprehensive health education in curricula, we can ensure that all young people have access to the same information, regardless of their background. It is our responsibility to create a world where every young person can achieve their full potential, and that begins with education. Therefore, the IFMSA urgently calls upon the member states to include comprehensive sexuality education in their curricula and recognize it as an essential tool to increase health literacy.

Thank you.