

Statement of International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA)

49th Session of Commission on Population and Development

April 11-16th , New York, USA

Honorable Chair, Distinguished Guests,

International Federation of Medical Students' Associations welcomes the leading theme for 49th Session of Commission on Population and Development “Strengthening the demographic evidence for the post-2015 development agenda”.

International Federation of Medical Students' Associations is one of the world's oldest and largest youth-led organizations, representing and engaging a network of over one million medical students from 124 national members organizations in 116 countries around the globe.

As the future generation of healthcare providers, it is up to us to carry out the 2030 health agenda. However, the Millennium Development Agenda has left us with unfinished business. Lack of proper access to sexual and reproductive health services, including Comprehensive Sexuality Education, access to safe and legal abortion, and family planning services, contribute to rates of unintended adolescent pregnancies, maternal mortality and deaths from unsafe abortions. These can all be prevented by fully implementing the 2030 agenda, and creating universal access to sexual and reproductive health.

As future medical professionals we acknowledge that the right to sexual and reproductive health is an essential component of the right to complete health and wellbeing. Over recent years more attention has been given to the importance of women empowerment, both based on a human

rights perspective, which implies that every human being is born with human dignity and equal rights, and the acknowledged role this have in poverty eradication and local, national and international development.

Therefore, we the IFMSA urge all countries to ensure adequate provision of evidence based Comprehensive Sexuality Education to all young people, and to enshrine this right in national laws and medical education curricula, furthermore, we would like to call upon member states to honour their commitment to the Program of Action of International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

As the medical students of today, and the healthcare professionals of tomorrow, we demand evidence and rights-based approach to fulfil Sustainable Development Goal's target 3.7. to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health.