

Commission on Population and Development

Fifty-fourth session
New York, 19-23 April 2021

Side Event

“Mobilizing Adolescents and Youth for Food Security and Nutrition Agenda In the Post-COVID19 World”

Wednesday, 21 April 2021

13:15-14:30 pm EDT

Organized by The International Federation of Medical Students' Association

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic is both a wake-up call to the vulnerability of our food systems and an insight into the ongoing threat posed by the climate crisis to nutritional security and our collective health. Although these two crises threaten food systems through different mechanisms, they share a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable, including children, adolescents and youth, and emphasise the need for a global food systems transformation. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, market supply chain and trade disruptions have been predicted to limit food accessibility, especially in areas that are already substantially affected by food insecurity. Furthermore, some areas of the world have experienced an increase in food prices and global models predict that the number of people living in poverty could substantially increase—exacerbating poverty and hunger in developing countries. Over the course of the coming year, our food system will be put to the test and we must ask whether a food system that is already strained is capable of providing for a projected population of 10 billion people by 2050, in the context of a rapidly changing climate.¹

On the other hand, nearly 16% of the world's population is represented by over 1.2 billion adolescents aged 10-19 years. Additionally, in some developing countries, they constitute 23%

¹ The Lancet Planetary Health,
[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(20\)30163-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(20)30163-7/fulltext)

of the population. It's undeniable how their absolute numbers will keep on growing particularly in many developing countries.² Thus, adolescents and youth are the major consumers and citizens of the future. This presents a need and opportunity to engage adolescents and youth in food systems change considering the threats to food security brought about by COVID-19. Sustainable development can not be met without critical transformations to agricultural production practises, dietary patterns, and food loss and waste. There is an urgency to take climate change and planetary health into account and pave the way for a green post-pandemic recovery with clear commitments towards healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems - with the meaningful inclusion of adolescents and youth voices.

The objectives of the panel are to:

1. Identify key entry points for meaningful engagement of adolescents and youth in the food systems and sustainable development agenda.
2. Provide a platform for adolescents and youth to demonstrate their efforts that address food security, dietary shift and sustainable consumption.
3. Generate pragmatic actions for Member States to co-create solutions with adolescents and youth to achieve food security and improve nutrition on a national, regional and global level.

Date and Time - 21st April 2021, 13:15 to 14:30 EDT.

Format

The side event will last for one hour and a half, divided into two interactive sub-panels; the first sub-panel will begin with brief welcoming remarks by the moderator followed by presentations delivered by global health experts from The Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health (tbh), the Global Climate and Health Alliance (GCHA) and EAT Foundation (tbh) to set the global context on the webinar topic drawing the interlinkages between adolescent health, food security and climate change. The second panel will include adolescent and youth representatives of diverse communities and countries who will demonstrate their initiatives and call to actions at Member States and other stakeholders. The moderator will then table pre-prepared questions aimed at stimulating new ideas and facilitating discussion followed by an open Q&A from the audience that will solicit further points of view from the participants including potential follow-up action. The moderator will then conclude the session with closing remarks and a summary of ideas for effective acceleration of action.

² UNICEF, <https://data.unicef.org/topic/adolescents/demographics/>

Registration Link

- Link to Webinar Registration on Zoom:
https://ifmsa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ie-rlA9STOu5wde5F4VhMg

Technical Details

- The session will take place on **Zoom** and broadcasted live on the IFMSA Facebook page.
- The **Zoom** meeting style being used is “meeting”, that allows participants also to take the floor and hence making the session interactive.
- All the speakers and IT team representatives will have the ability to mute and unmute themselves as they wish.
- The participants will not be able to unmute themselves, however, once they request the floor or would to make an intervention, the IT team will unmute them and give the floor.
- Each participant would have to identify themselves in the chat (name, country, designation, pronoun) before taking the floor.
- Participants may also use the “chat” feature to send their comments.

Social Media

The speakers' messages at the Event will be amplified via social media (*Facebook and Twitter*) around the Event. The Event will be recorded to promote key messages and outcomes presented by the panelists.

About IFMSA

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) was founded in 1951 as an organization that represents more than 1.3 million medical students from 140 countries worldwide. For more than 70 years, the Federation has not only been a dynamic platform of opportunities for future physicians but has also served as their voice at the global level. IFMSA has inspired generations of medical students to develop the leadership abilities to improve the world around them in an early yet crucial period of their career. In addition, IFMSA is a non-governmental organization in consultative status with ECOSOC and has been working closely with the World Health Organization and diverse UN agencies for decades. Engaging in IFMSA encourages both professional and personal collaborations irrespective of geographical,

social, cultural, religious, racial, sexual, and political differences. The IFMSA experience shows students that they are not merely passive subjects in a rapidly globalizing world but rather valuable individuals with a potentially powerful role to play in global health. IFMSA hence offers medical students a taste of the real and pressing health issues worldwide, and helps them learn that their idealistic goals can be achieved with readily attainable knowledge and commitment. In IFMSA, the emphasis is placed on students returning to their local environments with new ideas and the skills to implement them. IFMSA brings people together to exchange, discuss, and initiate projects to create a healthier world. It trains its members to give them the skills and resources needed to be health leaders. It advocates for pressing issues such as climate change, food security, mental health, sexual and reproductive health, and more.

Contact Information

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