

The International Federation of Medical Students' Association would like to start by applauding the efforts done by Member States and Non-State Actors in regards to creating sustainable and economic growth and would like to affirm the importance of maintaining and further strengthening the efforts, in order to ensure that words in statements are transformed to implemented actions.

The IFMSA believes that in a world where our populations are increasing, almost reaching 8 billion people, we are still surrounded by several factors and determinants that seem irrelevant to health to several stakeholders. This misses the fact that for sustainable development to occur, healthy populations must exist and for this to happen, health should remain in the centre of all policies and agendas.

We acknowledge that valuable efforts are done. However we believe that on the road to empowerment of all population groups, we are still lacking evident and specific plans for a multi-sectoral approach that would reflect the role of all key stakeholders, including but not limited to governments, NGOs, public sectors, market and family networks in ensuring a better and healthier world for all by all.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated several existing inequalities, in addition to creating new inequalities that are further hindering our progress towards the SDG2030 agenda including sustained and inclusive economic growth, thereby highlighting the urgent need for inclusive dialogues with all key partners, including youth. This dialogue is necessary to reflect on the pandemic, the lessons learnt and the potential actions plans for prevention, preparedness and response, not just for future pandemics, but also for the social, economic, environmental and commercial determinants of health, that are jeopardizing the health and wellbeing of billions of people worldwide.

We believe the CPD should be an opportunity for leading by example in refraining from delivering ambitious statements that are followed by inadequate action. We call on Member States and Non-State Actors to work on the creation of regional and national follow-up plans to CPD55, with the inclusion and meaningful engagement of all stakeholders, including young people, and taking into consideration the necessity of having health in the centre of all policies. The plans should be used as an accountability mechanism that would help us, all, reflect on how we proactively used CPD55 for the benefits of our populations and communities.

Thank you.