



IFMSA

International Federation of
Medical Students' Associations

Statement of the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) on health aspects of the "Zero Draft" of the Global Compact on Refugees

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The right to health is a basic human right, which must be respected, protected and fulfilled. The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA) believes that every individual regardless of their legal status has the right to the best attainable standard of health. Accordingly, migrants and refugees should be able to access the same standard of healthcare services as any other person, and proactive measures should be taken to meet the specific health needs of this vulnerable group.

We recognize and support the efforts of UNHCR, WHO, and IOM to streamline asylum seekers' and refugees' health in both global compacts. We highly appreciate the inclusion of refugee health needs and the public health implications of forced displacement as part of the GCR Zero Draft in paragraphs 55. & 56. and greet the common efforts made towards reaching the SDG 3 and Universal Health Coverage.

In accordance with IFMSA's Policy Document on Asylum Seeker and Refugee's Health, we would welcome States to consider the following points during discussions concerning health aspects of GCR:

- Expanding health service delivery, including the increase and improvement of health facilities, should be sustainable and inclusive, guaranteeing dignifying and non-discriminatory care for refugees.
- Strengthening national health data systems, including disaggregation of key health indicators by refugee status, should be accompanied with the increased capacity of health professionals to conduct inclusive, acceptable and participatory research of refugee health.
- States should actively raise public awareness around the inequities in health as well as the prejudice faced by refugees, in order to encourage a public dialogue about the healthcare for refugees.
- Include mental health services as a part of the basic package of health services and ensure that the health workforce dealing with refugees are well trained to evaluate and deal with mental health issues and conditions.

In conclusion, IFMSA firmly believes in the importance of joint efforts towards reaching Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The essence of UHC and SDGs is the principle of "leaving no one behind". We are certain that joint action, active collaboration, and inclusive approach towards refugees' health can ensure sustainable progress towards the achievement of both global targets. GCR possess a unique opportunity to actively involve all stakeholders to promote the health of refugees and therefore IFMSA calls on all actors to utilize this chance to truly leave no one behind.

Thank you.