



# IFMSA

International Federation of  
Medical Students' Associations

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

### Youth mainstreaming in Human Rights Mechanisms

*Human Rights Council - Intersessional Seminar on Youth and Human Rights*

Session N°3: Youth mainstreaming in human rights mechanisms and next steps on youth and human rights at the international level

**Monday, 12 April 2021**

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Excellencies, Delegates and Fellow young people,

The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations believes that the inclusive and meaningful youth engagement in human rights mechanisms is of utmost importance on all levels of development, and is a key issue to be addressed. Yet, youth face a multitude of social and structural barriers that limit their active and meaningful participation and involvement at the different levels, further perpetuating inequities and power imbalances. Dismantling these barriers and supporting youth in overcoming them requires a bottom-up approach starting from youth themselves and putting them at the center.

Youth are not vulnerable, but rather capable with the presence of an enabling environment. Such an environment is created by investing in youth programs that promote their acquisition of necessary skills, knowledge and abilities to participate actively as well as in creating safe and inclusive spaces for their engagement. It also requires proactive interaction through creating the means of communication and facilitating dialogue with young people.

We commend the Human Rights Council on this intersessional seminar and call for more similar spaces for youth to foster dialogue and exchange of experiences and practices on the various human rights issues affecting their lives and future. We further call for member states to:

- Develop Human Rights Education programs to foster youth's understanding of their rights as well as to nurture a culture of human rights within communities as the very first step towards mainstreaming youth involvement in human rights mechanisms.
- Create and implement a structured system for the youth delegates programme that includes and supports youth representatives being meaningfully engaged in human rights mechanisms and any governmental participation, including, but not limited to, that in international meetings, missions and consultations.

Thank you.