



**International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation**

Since 1949 | Students today, pharmacists tomorrow.

## Global Vaccine Action Plan

[www.ipsf.org](http://www.ipsf.org)

**Established in 1949**, IPSF is the leading international advocacy organisation for pharmacy and pharmaceutical science students and recent graduates that promotes improved public health through the provision of information, education, networking, and a range of publications and professional activities.

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**Statement of the  
International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation  
73rd World Health Assembly (Resumed), 9-14 November 2020  
Agenda Item 13.3  
Global Vaccine Action Plan**

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

It is a great honour to speak on behalf of the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF) which represents the voice of over 500,000 pharmaceutical students and recent graduates in 100 countries worldwide.

Vaccination, being the most cost-effective health intervention, underpins public health, major global targets and health security. Despite the efforts made, vaccination services are still underdeveloped and immunisation is not yet benefiting all. Vaccine hesitancy continues to be a big threat to the achievement of the Decade of Vaccines vision.

IPSF recognises the importance of immunisation and has made tremendous efforts in advocacy. In 2019, a Declaration on Vaccine Hesitancy was endorsed unanimously by more than 51 member countries with the subsequent release of an advocacy toolkit aimed at empowering our members to advocate locally.

IPSF calls on Member States to strengthen their immunisation programmes by recognising the role of pharmacists in the administration of vaccines. Practicing pharmacists should be adequately trained and certified, which requires further curriculum development to address existing gaps. As the pandemic progresses, we are seeing many countries expand the regulatory capacity of pharmacists as vaccinators. In countries where this is already in place, it is clear the impact of allowing pharmacist-based vaccination is increasing coverage levels. As pharmacists have a unique relation with patients due to regular contact, the role



of pharmacists in dispelling myths, combating hesitancy and patient education should not be neglected.

Considering the relationship between vaccination and Antimicrobial Resistance, we call on Member States to prioritise immunisation to avert unnecessary burden of widespread infectious diseases. To foster equity and shared responsibility, we call for multi-sectoral efforts in combating vaccine hesitancy and complacency.

Thank you.