



International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation

Since 1949 | Students today, pharmacists tomorrow.

WHO's work in health emergencies

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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.

📍 Andries Bickerweg 5, 2517 JP The Hague, the Netherlands

☎ Tel +31703021992 | Fax +31703021999

@ ipsf@ipsf.org

/IPSForg

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Statement of the
International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation
73rd World Health Assembly (Resumed), 9-14 November 2020
Agenda Item 13.2
WHO's work in health emergencies

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.

Addressing health emergencies relies on the countries' preparedness and the agility of their healthcare systems. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, being one of the most challenging health emergencies of the past decade, has substantiated the interdependence of health and socioeconomic stability.

IPSF has been advocating for meaningful youth engagement during health emergencies. In light of this pandemic, IPSF partnered with healthcare student organisations ensuring a One Health approach to tackling the pandemic. We held a series of webinars on COVID-19 with experts, focusing on; medication development and regulatory framework, economic impact, dispelling myths, student-led initiatives and the widespread impact of COVID-19 on health.

We acknowledge the work of the WHO and Member States in supporting epidemiological surveillance, research and development, providing technical guidance and public education during health emergencies. We believe the WHO should align local actions into a coordinated international effort and ensure the findings and knowledge of outbreaks is effectively translated into robust response plans and guidance that can be understood by all.



IPSF calls the WHO and Member States to fully utilise pharmacists' role in responding to health emergencies as the medicine experts. We acknowledge the importance of assessing IPC capacity at all levels of the healthcare system for emergency preparedness, and to recognise and authorise pharmacists' expanded responsibilities during health emergencies, such as allowing them to administer a future COVID-19 vaccine at community level ensuring rapid accessibility in urban and remote settings. Furthermore, it is crucial that Member States adapt to the WHO's guidance improving the resilience of healthcare systems.

Thank you.