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72nd World Health Assembly 11.8 Follow upon the High-Level Meeting on AMR

Honorable Chair, Distinguished delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the WMA, representing 9 million physicians. This statement is supported by the IFMSA, representing medical students internationally.

We have noted the report of the director general regarding the progress on the implementation of the Global Action Plan and we applaud the report of the ad hoc interagency coordinating group.

We would like to stress the following:

- We recognize that 112 countries have reported developing national action plans, and some starting the implementation phase. Acknowledging differences between countries, we would like to reiterate the need for the adoption of a One Health approach in National Action Plan (NAP) development, but more importantly in its implementation. The Environmental AMR is an aspect that continues to lack in most of the NAPs that are publicly accessible for review.
- While it is essential to invest in research and development of new antibiotics, vaccines and diagnostics, similar attention should be given to financing behavior change interventions and education of health professionals on appropriate prescribing, as well as stewardship implementation techniques.
- While we see the value of a joint tri-partite secretariat as part of the overall One Health leadership group proposed in the IACG report, we urge member states to continue to finance the AMR secretariat at WHO, where great expertise lies and to empower WHO to continue its leadership moving the Global Action Plan forward.

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Thank you,