IPSF Policy Statement on Engagement with Non State Actors.

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 350,000 pharmaceutical students and recent graduates in 92 countries worldwide.

IPSF commends WHO for its active engagement with diverse groups of non-State actors over the years and for continuing to do so. We also recognise WHO for acknowledging that the “triple billion” goal of the General Programme of Work cannot be achieved without stronger and more systematic engagement with non-State actors.

For IPSF, participation in WHO governing body sessions ranks very high on our annual priorities and it is important to us to emphasise the crucial roles taken by NSAs in complementing the efforts of the Member States (MS). WHO should promote coordination and engagement between MS and NSAs starting with allocating sufficient time and opportunities for discussions and recommendations from NSAs, acknowledging these interventions and supporting coordination and joint efforts to achieve the goals of the global health agenda.

NSAs contribution should be considered as strong and evidence-based recommendations that can influence health systems and support governments. IPSF acknowledges the challenges that arise with increasing numbers of NSAs; however, following the modality of grouping statements might impose limitations on our contributions. We are concerned that such groupings might not contribute in a noteworthy manner to the debates if not accompanied with sufficient consultation with NSAs beforehand. The statements will also represent the broad views of the constituencies and our individual voices will be diminished. This could potentially reduce enthusiasm to participate in the governing body sessions.

IPSF extends its full support to the Secretariat to assess other alternative channels to communicate and coordinate contributions from NSAs. We recommend the division of NSAs using methods that result in the creation of a more efficient working environment for all stakeholders.

Thank you.