146th Session of the WHO EBM Agenda Item 6
Primary Health Care.

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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IPSF Policy Statement on Primary Health Care.

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.

Primary Health Care (PHC) has been shown to be the most equitable, efficient and effective approach to improving population’s health and pharmacists have a crucial role in PHC that is increasingly being acknowledged by various governments. We commend WHO and its stakeholders for the work, investments and gains achieved in PHC over the last 40 years. However, a critical challenge still remains at the highest level of the Alma-Ata and Astana Declarations relating to governments’ political will to implement PHC. In some countries, there are unconducive policy contexts, inadequate policy coherence and regulatory frameworks for primary health care, as well as political instability or conflict.

Therefore, IPSF calls for intersectoral engagement in health system strengthening, political will, good governance which includes passing primary health care legislation, and the implementation of health reforms that support PHC. There needs to be a paradigm shift in the way primary health care is overseen and for gains to be sustained beyond election cycles. IPSF calls for the recognition of pharmacists, the medicines experts, as an integral trusted part of the health system that is easily accessible in primary health care efforts. There also needs to have an active integration of community pharmacists in the PHC setting along with increased research in this area to assess the effectiveness of this approach, which we call on Member States to adopt in their countries. Lastly, IPSF calls for the inclusion of the role of the youth in primary health care so as to create a robust primary health care network.

Thank you for your attention.