



**International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation**

Since 1949 | Students today, pharmacists tomorrow.

## 146<sup>th</sup> Session of the WHO EBM Agenda Item 8

### The Global Vaccine Action Plan.

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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.

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## IPSF Policy Statement on the 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 350,000 pharmaceutical students and recent graduates in 92 countries worldwide.

Vaccination, being the most cost-effective intervention in public health, is an important element in healthcare that directly impacts Universal Health Coverage (UHC) targets and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, it is still currently being underutilised and lacks the appreciation of many members of society. Vaccine hesitancy, especially due to complacency, is increasingly becoming a concern as it has caused delays and even reversals of eradication processes at their final stage.

Recognising this, IPSF has conducted extensive advocacy online and offline. A Declaration on Vaccines Hesitancy, which states the views of IPSF on possible actions that can be taken to tackle vaccine hesitancy, was endorsed unanimously by 51 of our member countries in 2019 and released to call for actions towards combating this issue globally, starting at the national level. Currently, we are working on a vaccine hesitancy advocacy toolkit to facilitate advocacy on this topic on a local level.

IPSF calls on national governments to develop comprehensive plans and legal frameworks which focus on sustainability beyond 2020, including authorizing pharmacists to administer vaccinations following proper training and certification. We recommend having a reform on pharmacy curriculum to equip all future pharmacists with the skills and knowledge required to provide quality and accountable vaccination services. To foster integrated national health and immunization strategies, Member States should achieve more policy coherence including integrating immunization in the WHO Decade of Health Ageing Strategy 2020-2030 as the third prevention/health behaviours pillar. Policy makers and national governments should work closely with healthcare professionals to address vaccine hesitancy by ensuring the integrity of vaccines throughout the supply chain, ensuring sufficient education regarding vaccinations and fighting complacency.

Thank you.