

ECOSOC Partnership Forum 2022

International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA) Side Event

Summary of Side Event

Title:

Sustained and Healthy Recovery from COVID-19: Addressing Climate Change Impacts Through Trans-sectoral Strategies With Youth Inclusion

Date and Time:

2 February 2022, 13:00 - 13:50 EST

Background on the Event:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the world has become further away from achieving sustainable development goals, including SDG 13 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The COVID-19 pandemic underlined the inseparable links between climate and health. Nonetheless, post-pandemic recovery is not only applied to the health sector but also multidimensional recovery including economics, social, educational and environmental aspects. The International Federation of Medical Students Association is the leading youth organisation representing 1.3 million medical students from 131 countries. IFMSA advocacy efforts are directed towards various global health topics, including climate change and its interlinkage with health among medical students, community members and decision-makers through different capacity building activities, intersectional dialogues, campaigns and external meetings, including ECOSOC, High-Level Political Forum, UN Climate Change Conference Of Parties and World Health Assembly. Furthermore, IFMSA has constantly engaged in global dialogues on SDGs and has measured the impact of medical students in advancing 2030 SDG agendas. With the enrollment of more than 33 activities related to climate change issues last year, IFMSA continues to recognise the threats of climate change to human health and economic recovery. Hence, we are motivated to organise this side event in ECOSOC to gather and establish a meaningful dialogue of member states, climate health experts and youth advocates in building the world back better through green and healthy recovery.

Key Issues Discussed:

- Showcase IFMSA advocacy efforts and initiatives on promoting climate health agenda, trans-sectoral actions to achieve SDG 13
- Challenges youth faced while pushing towards the agenda of climate health
- Possible strategies for post-pandemic green recovery and preparedness
- During COVID-19 the amount of medical waste has been increasing and the healthcare workers have become occupied and not capable of participating in climate actions due to lack of time.

Key Recommendations for Actions:

- All stakeholders should join on one table for negotiating climate actions and youth should be the centre of the negotiations to build trans-sectoral strategies.
- Strong capacity building of all involved parties is crucial.
- Prioritisation of climate actions and innovation are mandated to bridge the gap.