

## REQUEST BY NON-STATE ACTORS TO SUBMIT A STATEMENT AT THE HYBRID SESSION OF THE SEVENTY-SECOND REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

Non-State actors participating, either in person or virtually, in the hybrid session of the Seventy-second Regional Committee for Africa and wishing to make a statement, must submit the complete form hereunder to the Secretariat not later than one week prior to the start date of the session, that is **by 15 August 2022**.

Oral statements should not be more than one-minute long, while written statements should not be longer than 600 words. Each statement should focus on technical issues and should be directly relevant to both the agenda item under which it is presented and to the document prepared for the item. The statement should not raise issues of a political nature that are unrelated to the agenda item and should not contain any inappropriate or offensive reference to Member States. While there should not be reference to any individual Member States, or areas of Member States, it is recalled that nomenclature must follow that of the United Nations.

The Chairperson of the Regional Committee shall decide whether to accept or reject a statement in light of its relevance to the discussion, compliance with the time and word limits and the rules stated above. During the meeting, the Chairperson of the Regional Committee shall decide whether to grant a non-State actor the right to present an oral statement in light of time constraints or any other reason. Written statements admitted shall be published on the Regional Committee webpage for a limited time period and will not be retained thereafter.

### Request by non-State actors to submit a written or oral statement at the hybrid session of the Seventy-second Regional Committee for Africa

**Name and acronym of non-State actor** (in English,):

Federation of African Medical Students' Associations (FAMSA)

☒ Written statement

☐ Oral statement

**Name of person delivering the statement**

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**Modality of participation:** ☐ In person ☐ Virtual

**Agenda item** (number, title): 14, Seventh Progress Report on the implementation of the Transformation Agenda of the World Health Organization Secretariat in the African Region

**Statement** (in English,):

FAMSA acknowledges the steps taken by Member States over the past six years in implementing the AFRO Transformation Agenda, and commends the Committee's report for its next steps to accelerate progress towards completion of the 'unfinished work' of WHO's Transformation.

Since the launch of its second phase in 2018, the Transformation Agenda has been the agency into optimizing the Secretariat's technical focus and performance for country-level impact. We recognize Member States for the reported progress and milestones achieved over the past year across the Transformation Agenda's four strategic pillars.

As an organization representing Medical Students' Associations in Africa, we have a unique responsibility to ensure that future health professionals are valuable contributors towards attaining the WHO's triple billion target. We would like to make recommendations that would support states in achieving desired outcomes on the same.

FAMSA calls upon the WHO African Region, Member States and all stakeholders to:

- Create opportunities for young people to actively participate in impactful projects and initiatives, such as by creating specific positions which are reserved for youth who meet the required qualifications. This will promote meaningful youth involvement, employment, and simultaneously contribute to WHO's work as they will provide both technical and administrative support.
- Integrate health emergency activities into universal health coverage and health systems strengthening - in particular community level health systems, while focusing on the primary healthcare strategy
- Facilitate strategic engagement with the private sector by providing technical support for design of public-private partnerships and generate evidence on best practices in public-private engagements
- Establish a Monitoring & Evaluation tool to track and report on the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Transformation Agenda
- Adopt priority-setting in effective resource allocation to achieve value for money
- Strengthen high-level political support for health in increasing allocation to health budgets
- Promote multisectoral collaboration in eliminating policy implementation barriers in achieving health and sustainable development
- Mobilize domestic resources for health through evidence-based justification of services that require funding
- Incorporate a bottom-up management approach instead of a 'one-size-fits-all' approach in building responsive and resilient health systems

The results achieved in the past year have taken place in a context of unprecedented challenges, and we urge Member States and WHO to recognize the youth as equal stakeholders and full actors in improving sustainability of the Transformation Agenda results. The youth not only want to be involved in achieving the SDGs, but they are necessary partners in shaping and implementing policies and initiatives in their communities. Meaningful youth engagement will dramatically change the direction of global health and evolve WHO AFRO into the primary leader in health development in Africa.

**Name:** Cinamon B. Nyagaka

**Position:** Vice Regional Coordinator, Membership and Capacity Building FAMSA East Africa

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022

