INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF LIBERAL YOUTH

Resolution: License to Heal

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Considering that:

- A third of the world's population has limited access to essential medicines.
- Costs of new expensive medicines cause problems of accessibility also in developed countries.
- The limited accessibility to drugs is partially caused by the current patent system. The system is based on intellectual property laws through patents which last for 20 years. This means the pharmaceutical company has a monopoly position on selling innovative drugs for this period of time.
- About a quarter of the available drugs are discovered by knowledge institutions such as universities. The government finances medical scientific research, but sets no conditions on the price and accessibility of the discovered medication; leaving pharmaceutical companies free to ask unreasonably high prices.
- The high prices of drugs threaten patients' right to treatment, and put health budgets under unsustainable pressure.
- The UN High Level Panel on Access to Medicines, provides valuable recommendations for governments and international institutions to address inexpedient inconsistencies between public health, medical innovation and the current research investment incentives and legal framework.
- The UN Human Rights Panel (A/HRC/32/L.23/Rev.1) recognizes access to medicines as a fundamental human right.
- The European Parliament recently adopted a resolution ((2016/2057(INI)) on how to improve access to medicines in Europe, highlighting numerous areas where member states can take immediate action.

Believing that:

- Medicine and other medical products should be accessible to everyone.
- The human right to health and appropriate medical care is essential in sustaining societies.
- To achieve affordability and accessibility, all stakeholders in the development of medicine need to take responsibility. Governments should promote affordability as well as innovation regarding the drug development process.
- It is necessary for countries to collaborate on negotiating with pharmaceutical companies regarding the pricing of innovative drugs to ensure their accessibility and the sustainability of healthcare systems.

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Calls upon IFLRY and its MOs to:

- Stimulate their government to require research institutions to responsibly license new active pharmaceutical ingredients which are publicly financed, consisting of the following requirements:
    - In high-income countries, the licence-taker must be transparent about the cost structure of the resulting medicine (including public R&D investments, marketing costs, tax rebates etcetera;) and should hold himself to a limited profit margin.
    - Waive the patents for low and middle-income countries, enabling generic competition in these regions (also known as global access licensing).

  This does not change the current patent system.

- Stimulate collaboration between different countries to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies regarding the pricing of innovative drugs to gain more bargaining power and ensure their accessibility and the sustainability of healthcare systems.

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