



SEVENTY-THIRD WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Provisional agenda item 11.3

Global vaccine action plan

Draft immunization vision and strategy: “Immunization Agenda 2030”

November 2020

ICN welcomes the draft Immunization Agenda 2030 and strongly believes in the power of immunization as a tool for global health and sustainable development.

Involving nurse leaders in implementing the strategy and strengthening and investing in the nursing workforce is essential for maximum impact. A nursing workforce that is appropriately resourced can effectively and efficiently support the planning, management, implementation and monitoring of immunization programmes at all levels.

Nurses are the largest clinical providers of immunization worldwide. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to shortages of nurses for vaccination and subsequent disruption of the delivery of immunization services; future disasters and health emergencies will do the same. Ensuring the availability and appropriate distribution of highly skilled and motivated nurses will create resilient health systems able to more efficiently respond to infectious disease outbreaks and emergencies.

As the healthcare professional closest to patients, nurses have unique insights into reasons for lack of trust in vaccination and translate this into policy actions. Furthermore, as one of the most trusted professions, nurses support community engagement, increase health literacy and build public confidence in immunization.

Nurses are also driving forward primary health care (PHC) systems and are finding innovative ways to deliver people-centered services; they will be essential in integrating immunization structures into PHC and to reaching older age groups. Nursing care is often the only health services that reaches the most geographically, culturally, and socially isolated people and marginalized populations.

Healthcare workers themselves must also be protected. ICN asks WHO to reprioritise the COVID-19 vaccine Stage 1 category to include all healthcare workers who provide direct care to people, notably healthcare workers engaged in immunization delivery to protect this vital service. With continued widespread transmission of the virus and ICN’s estimate that 10% of cases are in healthcare workers, healthcare workers delivering care to all populations are at immediate risk.