



## **SEVENTY-FIFTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

Provisional agenda item 27.4

### **Public health dimension of the world drug problem**

May 2022

The world drug problem has multiple public health dimensions that have a significant impact on individuals, families, and communities. Around half of individuals with mental health disorder will also experience a substance use disorder – prioritising mental health means addressing substance use disorders.

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) supports an effective and person-centered response to the world’s drug problem which includes access to controlled substances for comprehensive primary health care services, specifically end-of-life care and pain management; prevention of substance use; harm reduction for people who use substances; and universal access to effective treatment and care for people with substance use disorders.

As is espoused in the ICN Code of Ethics for Nurses, nursing practice treats all people with respect, dignity and compassion. A such, ICN supports a harm reduction approach to reducing the harmful health, social and economic consequences of substance use, emphasizing a human rights approach.