

154th WHO Executive Board Meeting

22 – 27 January 2024, Geneva

Item 7 Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

The International Council of Nurses, representing the over 28 million nurses globally, recognizes the need to accelerate progress towards SDG 3.4 and strongly supports reorienting health systems to primary health care as a crucial foundation for UHC and stepping up investments in the prevention and management of NCDs.

The nursing workforce comprises over 50% of the global health workforce and nurses provide an extensive range of PHC services in a wide variety of roles from birth to death, prevention to palliative care. ICN emphasizes that investing in the nursing workforce is critical to increasing universal access to PHC and effective interventions for addressing NCDs throughout the lifespan. This includes investments in education, retention, and development of the nursing workforce. ICN also urges Member States to include nurse leaders and experts in the planning and implementation of national and regional NCDs strategies.