

154th WHO Executive Board Meeting

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Item 6 Universal Health Coverage

The International Council of Nurses, representing the over 28 million nurses globally, underscores nurses' indispensable role as the largest health workforce crucial for achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

The UHC report identifies an insufficient health workforce, with nurses as key contributors to the realization of UHC. UHC relies on boosting PHC. Nurses, serving as practitioners, researchers, advocates, and knowledge sources within communities, contribute significantly to care continuity across the lifespan. A primary and preventative approach to health care, led by nurses, is vital for expanding access, reducing global health disparities, and ensuring equitable, effective and accessible health care services.

Investing in nurses is essential, necessitating strategic efforts in protection, education and retention. ICN urges Member States to prioritize nurses in workforce development, recognizing their transformative impact on global health.