

## **158th WHO Executive Board Meeting 2 – 7 February 2026, Geneva**

### **Item 18 Global Health and Peace Initiative**

The International Council of Nurses (ICN), representing over 30 million nurses worldwide, reiterates that health is the foundation of global security and peace and strongly condemns all attacks on health care.

Ongoing conflict takes an immense toll on the mental health and safety of health personnel and compromises their ability to deliver care. Nurses are working under extremely challenging conditions, facing critical shortages of essential supplies and persistent threats to their safety. Through its *Nurses for Peace* campaign, ICN supports nurses in more than ten countries affected by conflict and humanitarian emergencies.

Protecting the neutrality of health care, ensuring safe working conditions, and guaranteeing equitable access to health services for all are fundamental obligations. Nurses are trusted to uphold ethical principles; safeguarding this trust is vital to ensuring safe access to care in all settings.