

Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly

Provisional agenda Item 24.2

Global strategies and plans of action that are scheduled to expire within one year – Global strategic directions for nursing and midwifery 2021–2025

May 2025

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) strongly supports the extension of the Global Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery 2021–2025 (GSDNM) but calls for its update based on the recently released State of the World's Nursing Report 2 (SOWN2). SOWN2 provides essential data on workforce shortages, unequal distribution, and unethical migration, informing future policy decisions. ICN is concerned about the slow implementation of GSDNM, with insufficient resources and clear deliverables to improve retention, expand the workforce, create decent jobs, strengthen education, optimize roles for advanced practice, empower nurse leaders, and enhance regulation. Without concrete action, UHC and the SDGs will remain out of reach. ICN urges WHO and Member States to prioritize actionable commitments, ensuring that these strategies are supported with the necessary resources and policies to strengthen the nursing workforce and meet global health demands.