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What's on today – Friday 22 May

Committee A will open this morning with discussions on agenda item 12.4, Universal health coverage, including the Draft global strategy for integrated emergency, critical and operative care, 2026–2035 – ICN has a statement on this item.

Other important items on the Committee Agenda scheduled for today:

- 12.5 Primary health care
- 12.8 Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel – ICN has a [statement on this item](#)
- 12.7 Substandard and falsified medical products
- 12.9 Draft updated global action plan on antimicrobial resistance
- 12.6 Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – ICN is [part of a constituency statement on this item](#)
- 12.10 Harmonization of regulatory approaches, governance and standards for data, digital health and artificial intelligence in the health sector
- 15.1 Strengthening rehabilitation in health systems
- 15.3 The health of Indigenous Peoples
- 15.4 Maternal, infant and young child nutrition
- 15.2 Well-being and health promotion
- 15.5 Draft strategy on the economics of health for all – ICN [leading a constituency statement on this item](#)
- Committee B will continue discussions on 20.1 continued Reform of the global health architecture and the UN80 Initiative

Please consult the [Daily Journal No.5](#) for today

Thursday 21 May Highlights

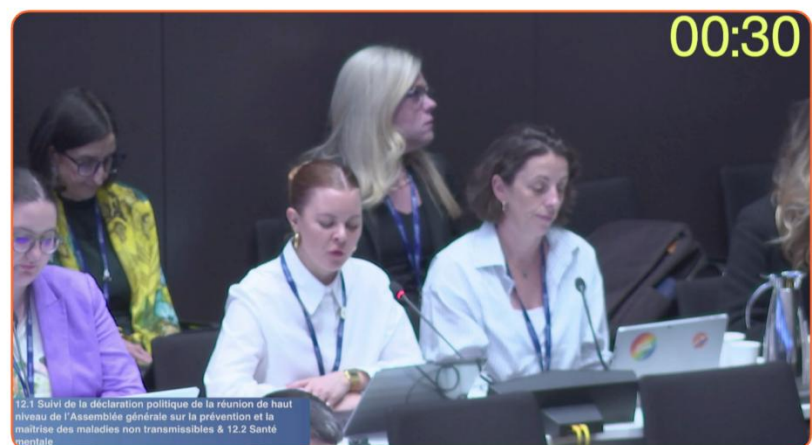
Committee A and B discussions

Committee A

Committee A discussed *12.3 Communicable diseases* and ICN delivered a statement addressing the sub-item on Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) reaffirming that immunization is among the most effective public health interventions and that achieving IA2030 targets requires the meaningful engagement of the nursing workforce in planning, delivery, and leadership. Read the full statement [here](#).

Committee A discussed agenda item *14.5 Public health implications of the unprovoked attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran on civilians and essential civilian infrastructure in Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Jordan* and approved the draft resolution [WHA79/A/CONF./4](#) after a 91:2 vote.

Committee A discussed agenda items *12.1 Follow-up to the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases* and *12.2 Mental health*. ICN delivered a statement on 12.2 expressing deep concern that many countries remain significantly off track in meeting global mental health targets, highlighting a persistent global mental health workforce crisis. ICN urged countries to empower nurses to take on expanded roles within



interprofessional teams delivering integrated, community-based mental health services. Read the full statement [here](#).

The Committee approved resolution [EB158.1](#) *Political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases*.

Committee B

The Committee discussed *17.2 continued Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem* and following a vote approved EB158.R6 as amended.

The discussion opened on *20.1 Reform of the global health architecture and the UN80 Initiative* but was suspended.

Side Events

CoNGO event at ICN headquarters: Shaping the NGO Committee on Health



The Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO) with ICN convened a listening session, hosted at ICN headquarters, bringing together more than 25 representatives from health NGOs working within the

UN system, along with ICN CEO Howard Catton, CoNGO President Peter Preziosi and CoNGO Vice-President Cyril Ritchie.

The session explored the creation of a new NGO Committee on Health, with strong support expressed for taking the initiative forward.

The Committee would serve as a coordinated civil society platform for health groups to present a stronger, united health voice within the UN system. In a world facing unprecedented and interconnected health challenges, the Committee is intended to better coordinate across organizations, enable shared advocacy and input on health issues and more strongly bring the voices of CoNGO organizations and health representatives into UN decision-making.

ICN CEO Howard Catton addressed the gathering, emphasizing ICN's commitment to interprofessional collaboration and readiness to support this new Committee and the wider health NGO community with CoNGO. .



Bridging Health and Peace: Accelerating the Global Health and Peace Initiative (GHPI) in Turbulent Times

ICN Senior Policy Advisor Hoi Shan Fokeladeh joined a WONCA-hosted event on “Bridging Health and Peace: Accelerating the Global Health and Peace Initiative (GHPI) in Turbulent Times”. This side event explored the deep interconnection between health and peace. Against a backdrop of around 110 ongoing armed conflicts worldwide, the discussion examined how health systems and professionals can serve as bridges for peace. The session highlighted the role of primary care physicians as trusted communicators; the essential contributions of nurses,

community health workers, and public health professionals in conflict settings; the risks faced by health workers advocating for health and human rights; and the progress and challenges of the Global Health and Peace Initiative.

ICN President José Luis Cobos Serrano delivered an intervention from a nursing workforce perspective, underscoring the importance of protecting health workers in conflict settings and highlighting ICN's Nurses for Peace campaign.



Predicting and Promoting Well-Being Societies: How Policy Benchmarking and Simulation Models Can Accelerate NCD Prevention

ICN Senior Policy Advisor Erica Burton attended this side event hosted by Movendi International which explored how policy benchmarking, simulation modelling, and public opinion surveys can help close the implementation gap in NCD prevention and accelerate the shift toward well-being societies. Speakers discussed how structural alcohol policies, such as alcohol taxation, generate lasting health, social, and economic benefits.



Roundtable | Self-Care, Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Financing Development: Advancing Practical Pathways for Countries

ICN CEO Howard Catton attended a roundtable on *Self-Care, Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Financing Development: Advancing Practical Pathways for Countries*, hosted by Bayer, the UN University - Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR), and the Government of Egypt.

Bringing audiences in: Storytelling as a trusted tool in health communications

ICN's Director of Communications Richard Elliott and Head of Digital Communications and Sponsorship Pilar Millan attended this BBC StoryWorks event, with speakers from BBC Storyworks, WHO Foundation, Danaher, and UICC. The session explored the power of storytelling and its nuances in modern digital health communications, highlighting how stories can bridge gaps and build trust with global audiences on health issues. The ICN team met with BBC StoryWorks partners and discussed the success of the [Caring with Courage](#) film series, which showcases the wide-ranging human and health impact of nursing, with both BBC StoryWorks and ICN enthusiastic about developing more films and future collaborations.



Social Media

ICN-International Council of Nurses
 5h · 🌐

ICN CEO **Howard Cotton** underlines the critical role of the health workforce in protecting global health security in times of crisis during #WHA79.

📖 Read more: <http://bit.ly/3RNxBRC>
 🔍 Explore our key messages: <https://bit.ly/4ul9Qyj>

#OurNursesOurFuture

“When health systems are not prepared, it is not only patients’ lives on the line. As well as health workers tragically losing their lives to Ebola outbreaks, we are hearing that nurses still lack PPE and fear for their safety. As major health decisions are made at #WHA79 this week, ICN calls for all leaders to protect & strengthen the nursing workforce at the heart of emergency resilience and readiness.”

Howard Cotton
 ICN CEO



ICN-International Council of Nurses
 11h · 🌐

In AI #WHA79, **Josephine Agyei**, Chair of the ICN Alliance of Student & Early Career Nurses #SECN Steering Committee, delivers a powerful call to action on behalf of nurses worldwide:


“Immunization is one of the most effective public health interventions and must be strengthened as a core pillar of primary health care.”

📖 Read our WHA79 statements: <https://bit.ly/4fq0Mnl>
 🔍 Explore our key messages: <https://bit.ly/4ul9Qyj>

World Health Organization

00:04

worldwide stand ready to work in partnership with Member States



ICN - International Council of Nurses @ICNurses · 7h

What an inspiring morning at the #BBCStoryWorks #WHA79 side event: Bringing Audiences in: Storytelling as a Trusted Tool in Health Communication! The discussions around trust, authenticity, and the power of storytelling in global health were genuinely thought-provoking. A huge

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ICN-International Council of Nurses
 6h · 🌐

ICN First Vice-President **Sineva Ribeiro** delivers a strong message during #WHA79: nursing empowerment is not optional, it is essential to achieving all global health targets by 2030.

📖 Read more: <http://bit.ly/3RNxBRC>
 🔍 Explore our key messages: <https://bit.ly/4ul9Qyj>

#OurNursesOurFuture

“With #WHA79 underway, WHO has warned that the world will miss every single global health target by 2030 if we do not take urgent action. There is no time to lose: we must invest in sufficient, supported and empowered nurses as a force for UHC, health equity, and a healthier world.”

Sineva Ribeiro
 ICN First Vice-President



ICN - International Council of Nurses @ICNurses · 7h

A powerful moment today as ICN hosted the margins of #WHA79, bringing together nurses from the globe to connect and engage in key global health discussions.

With 150+ attendees joining virtually, the impact reached far beyond the

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