



See ICN's [#WHA79 statements](#), [Key Messages Briefing](#), [previous daily updates](#) and more on the [virtual delegation webpage](#)

What's on today – Saturday 23 May

Committee A

Committee A will continue discussions on

- Item 12.5 Primary healthcare
- Item 12.8 Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel

It will also discuss:

- 12.7 Substandard and falsified medical products
- 12.9 Draft updated global action plan on antimicrobial
- 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

Committee B

The discussion will continue on:

- 15.1 Strengthening rehabilitation in health systems
- 15.3 The health of Indigenous Peoples
- 15.4 Maternal, infant and young child nutrition
- The committee will also discuss:
- 15.2 Well-being and health promotion
 - Outcome of the WHO Commission on Social Connection
- 15.5 Draft strategy on the economics of health for all – **ICN is leading a constituency statement on this item**

Please consult the [Daily Journal No. 6](#) for today

Friday 22 May Highlights

Committee A and B discussions

Committee A

Committee A opened the day with the adoption of two decisions and three resolutions contained in document [A79/39](#).

The Committee discussed *12.4 Universal health coverage*. ICN delivered its statement on sub-item *Draft global strategy for integrated emergency, critical and operative care, 2026–2035* in which it highlighted that nurses are central to delivering safe, timely, high-quality



emergency, critical, and operative care and underscored the importance of access for rural, remote, and conflict-affected populations, supported by robust data and quality improvement systems. You can read the full statement [here](#).

The Committee approved draft resolution in [EB158.R2](#) *Precision medicine: a path towards targeted, personalized and equitable care*; [EB158.R3](#) *Strengthening equitable access to diagnostic imaging through teleradiology*; [EB158.R4](#) *Reducing the burden of stroke: strengthening prevention, acute care, rehabilitation and health system readiness*; as well as [EB158.R5](#) *Advancing smart, efficient pharmacovigilance as an essential tool for robust, sustainable, resilient and responsive health systems, for everyone, everywhere*. It also adopted decisions [EB158\(4\)](#) *Draft global strategy for integrated emergency, critical and operative*



care, 2026–2035 and [EB158\(5\)](#) *Increasing availability, ethical access and oversight of transplantation of human cells, tissues and organs*

The Committee opened discussion on 12.5 *Primary healthcare* and 12.8 *Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel*. ICN delivered its statement on item 12.8 telling the Assembly that the global health workforce is a global public good and collective, worldwide action is needed to protect it. You can read the full statement [here](#).

The meeting was adjourned and discussion on these agenda items will resume on Saturday, 23 May.

Committee B

The Committee discussed 20.1 *Reform of the global health architecture and the UN80 Initiative*. ICN joined a constituency statement on this item.

The Committee opened discussion on items 15.1 *Strengthening rehabilitation in health systems*; 15.3 *The health of Indigenous Peoples*; 15.4 *Maternal, infant and young child nutrition*. The Committee was adjourned for the day.

Side Events

Ministerial dialogue on health worker mobility

A meeting of Health Ministers was hosted at ICN headquarters on Thursday, 21 May, convened and co-hosted by Global Health Partnerships, the Philippines, and representatives from the Global South, with support from King's College London.

Discussions centred on health workforce strengthening, migration, mobility, and international recruitment challenges.



The Philippines and Jamaica Health Ministers and other senior representatives from countries including Ghana, shared important insights and discussed next steps, with a focus on south-to-south collaboration as a pathway forward.

ICN CEO Howard Catton spoke on the need to go beyond production, education, and pipeline to ensure supportive working conditions, professional development pathways, and enabling environments that retain nurses.



Left to right: Dr Koko Awoonor, Technical Advisor to the Ghanaian Minister; ICN CEO Howard Catton; The Honorable Dr Christopher Tufton, Minister for Health and Wellness, Jamaica; Dr James Campbell, Professor of Practice, Health Workforce, King's College London and former WHO Director of Health Workforce; Dr Teodoro Javier Herbosa, Health Minister of the Philippines; and Margaret Caffrey, Technical Director – Health Systems Strengthening at Global Health Partnerships.

The Lancet MedZero launch

The ICN CEO joined the launch of *The Lancet MedZero*, a new global initiative that allows clinicians and health leaders to access carbon emissions data for thousands of health care products and procedures, from syringes and scalpels to chest X-rays and pharmaceuticals.

ICN is supporting the initiative and amplifying its impact for nurses and health professionals as part of a commitment to sustainable and environmentally friendly care.

The event was hosted by *The Lancet* and organized alongside the delegation of the Philippines, the University of Singapore, and the delegations of Thailand, the United Kingdom, and Médecins Sans Frontières.



Adult Immunization Policy Advisory Board

Senior Policy Advisor Hoi Shan Fokeladeh attended the *Adult Immunization Policy Advisory Board*, hosted by the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA). The Board convened a diverse group of stakeholders to explore innovative approaches to overcoming current barriers to adult immunization and to identify opportunities for improving uptake and realizing its full potential. Discussions focused on the shared challenges of ageing populations, the rising burden of NCDs, workforce shortages, and persistent vaccine hesitancy and misinformation – alongside the significant medical, social, and economic returns that adult immunization can deliver across the life course. A key area of focus was empowering the health workforce. Nurses, as primary providers of care across communities and settings, are central to expanding access and uptake. Participants worked to identify top barriers and enablers, agree priority areas for joint action in the short and medium term, and surface overlooked opportunities, aligned with the IFPMA Call to Action.



Delivering on Brain Health: Implementing IGAP and the Political Declaration on NCDs

Chair of the ICN SECN Alliance Josephine Agyei attended the official side event, *Delivering on Brain Health: Implementing IGAP and the Political Declaration on NCDs*, hosted by the Italian MoH and co organized by OneNeurology, the MS International Federation (MSIF), the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE), and Alzheimer’s Disease International (ADI).



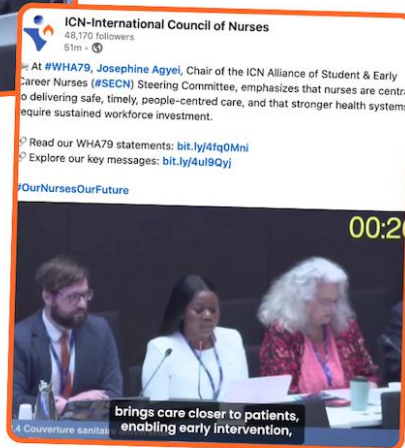
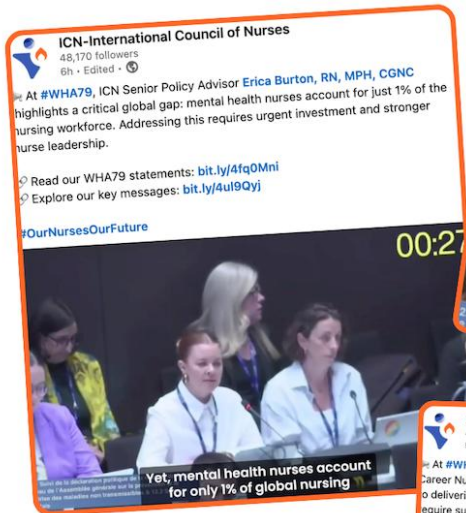
Meetings

ICN CEO Howard Catton welcomed Dr. Teodoro J. Herbosa, Secretary of Health of the Republic of the Philippines (pictured right), to ICN this week, highlighting the significant contribution Filipino nurses make to health care systems around the world.



Mr Catton also met with Dr. Slim Slama, CEO of the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), (pictured left) to discuss nurses' critical role in primary health care, ageing populations, and integrated care, and to explore areas for closer collaboration between the two organizations.

Social Media Highlights



Stay tuned on ICN's social media for more!

[Facebook](#) [LinkedIn](#) [X](#)