

Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly

Item 12.4 Universal health coverage

- **Draft global strategy for integrated emergency, critical and operative care, 2026–2035**

May 2026

The International Council of Nurses, representing 30 million nurses worldwide, supports the Global Strategy for Integrated Emergency, Critical and Operative Care.

Nurses are central to delivering safe, timely, high-quality emergency, critical, and operative care. Strengthening ECO systems will not be possible without sustained investment in the health workforce, particularly education, regulation, and retention. Properly supported advanced and extended nursing roles bring care closer to patients, enabling earlier intervention, better continuity of care, and wider reach into underserved areas.

We commend the emphasis on integrated, team-based, people-centred care, and underscore the importance of access for rural, remote, and conflict-affected populations, supported by robust data and quality improvement systems.

ICN stands ready to work with Member States, WHO, and partners to advance safe, equitable care.