

Seventy-sixth session of the Regional Committee for Africa

25 – 28 August 2026, Addis Ababa

Provisional agenda Item 12

Regional framework on emergency medical teams, 2026–2030 (Document AFR/RC76/8)

Chair,

The International Council of Nurses, the global federation of National Nurses' Associations and the voice of nursing internationally, welcomes the Regional Framework on Emergency Medical Teams.

Nurses are indispensable to effective EMTs and to sustaining essential services during crises. ICN urges Member States to embed nursing leadership in EMT governance and ensure nurses are represented in planning, multidisciplinary rosters, training and evaluation.

Competency-based preparation should draw on ICN's Core Competencies in Disaster Nursing and its Level III Competencies for Nurses involved in Emergency Medical Teams, which align with WHO EMT standards.

Preparedness also requires leadership. ICN's Nursing Leadership for Crisis Response and Recovery (NLCRR) demonstrates how investment in crisis leadership, collaboration, mental health support and recovery can strengthen nurses and health systems.

ICN calls for regular simulation, protection and psychosocial support for responders, sustainable financing, and meaningful engagement of national nursing associations and government chief nursing officers in preparedness, response and recovery.