

Seventy-sixth session of the Regional Committee for Africa

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Progress report on the framework for the implementation of the Immunization Agenda 2030 in the WHO African Region (AFR-RC76-INF-DOC-5)

Chair,

The International Council of Nurses, the global federation of national nurses' associations and the voice of nursing internationally, welcomes the progress achieved under Immunization Agenda 2030.

Yet 6.7 million children remain zero-dose, showing that recovery in coverage has not yet delivered equity.

Nurses are central to closing this gap. They are often the most accessible health professionals in communities and are critical to vaccination, surveillance, health education and reaching underserved populations.

ICN's 2024 discussion paper, Nursing and Primary Health Care: Towards the realization of Universal Health Coverage, reinforces the central role of nurses in prevention, health promotion and community-based care. Our 2026 International Nurses Day report, Empowered Nurses Save Lives, also highlights the power of trust in addressing misinformation and strengthening confidence in care.

ICN urges Member States to invest in the nursing workforce, enable nurses to practise to full scope, and involve national nursing associations and government chief nursing officers in immunization planning.

Reaching zero-dose children means reaching communities. And nurses are essential to doing both.