



## **146<sup>th</sup> WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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Provisional agenda item 22.1

### **WHO reform**

#### **Involvement of non-State actors in WHO's governing bodies**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the International Council of Nurses (ICN). ICN wishes you a happy Year of the Nurse and the Midwife and thanks WHO & Member States (MS) for recognising the critical contribution of nurses and midwives to global health. Implementing the changes of this report will dilute nursing and midwifery contribution at WHO. This year, it is vitally important that we do not stifle the nursing voice as this could be seen as a strong contradiction to WHO's call for nursing and midwifery to be recognised globally.

We do not find it effective to organise civil society organisations (CSO) into constituencies. CSO statements are an important mechanism for MS to consider the breadth and depth of agenda issues and each CSO makes a unique contribution bringing practical and pragmatic perspectives to the policy debate. Constituency statements will impact the quality of policy making as with such diversity across CSOs, they are likely to be a diluted consensus. Furthermore, restricting the number of statements per agenda item will decrease contribution from civil society and could lead to a less-informed debate.

ICN also strongly disagrees with the proposal to restrict CSO delegation size. This is particularly concerning should the new modalities be piloted at the 73<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly. We have been working closely with stakeholders, including the WHO Director-General, to ensure that the Year of the Nurse and the Midwife is celebrated and capitalised upon to harness the critical power of this workforce to deliver UHC. As we celebrate this historic WHO designation, it is time we walk the talk. That means hearing the voices of nursing at the centre of WHO decision-making rather than silencing them and not closing the door to the many nurses who want to participate in the WHA as part of the ICN delegation.

Thank you.