



## **WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD 148<sup>th</sup> SESSION**

Provisional agenda item 12

### **Immunization Agenda 2030**

January 2021

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) welcomes the Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) and strongly believes in the power of immunization for global health and sustainable development.

The strong involvement of nurse leaders and the nursing workforce will effectively support the planning, design, implementation and delivery of immunization programmes at all levels.

Nurses are the largest clinical providers of immunization worldwide. Nurses are driving forward primary health care and are finding innovative ways to integrate people-centred immunization structures. Nursing care is often the only health service that reaches the most geographically, culturally and socially isolated and marginalized populations.

Nurses offer valuable expertise in behavioural and social strategies to address under-vaccination and must be involved in their design and delivery. As one of the most trusted professions, nurses support effective communication, increase health literacy and build public confidence in immunization. As the healthcare professional closest to patients, nurses have unique insights into reasons for lack of trust in vaccination and translate this into policy actions that engage communities and encourage greater use of immunization services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to shortages of nurses for vaccination and subsequent disruption of the delivery of immunization services; future disasters and health emergencies will do the same. The rate of nursing and midwifery personnel is a Global Strategic Priority Objective Indicator and shortages are one cause of success or failure in achieving the IA2030. Prioritising actions that ensure the availability and appropriate distribution of a skilled and motivated nursing workforce will be necessary to achieve IA2030 strategic priorities and will also create resilient health systems able to more efficiently respond to outbreaks and emergencies.

As nurses are key stakeholders of the immunization community, ICN strongly recommends including a nurse in the Partnership Council to mobilise nursing partners at country and regional levels and to support the coordination of technical support.