



Multi-stakeholder hearing in preparation for the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on universal health coverage

April 29, 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the over 20 million nurses worldwide.

Making up approximately half of the health workforce, nurses are intrinsically linked to the ability of countries to achieve UHC and the SDGs. ICN strongly believes that strengthening Primary Health Care (PHC) is the most effective approach to ensuring UHC and as such, calls on Member States to integrate PHC as the foundation of their health systems.

As a partner of the UHC2030 global Movement, ICN strongly supports the Key Asks put forth. Nurses play a significant role in this action agenda – examples include addressing health needs of vulnerable populations, improving health literacy, and empowering communities through a PHC approach.

ICN particularly wishes to highlight that upholding quality of care through progress towards UHC is essential and requires investment in a competent health workforce with a focus on nurses and midwives. This includes quality education, recruitment and retention strategies and assurance of decent work and fair pay.

ICN firmly believes that health is the foundation for prosperous people, communities and economies. Ensuring health and wellbeing through UHC requires political action beyond that of the health sector. Together with all partners of the UHC Movement, we call on Leaders to legislate, invest and collaborate with all of society to make UHC a reality.

Thank you