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Provisional agenda item 9

Roadmap to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem in the WHO European Region 2022–2030

The International Council of Nurses and the European Forum of National Nurses and Midwives Associations strongly support the Roadmap to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer in the WHO Euro Region.

HPV vaccination should be made available to all adolescent girls and boys through routine immunization programmes. Nurses and midwives working in school health and primary health care clinics are critical to increase HPV vaccination rates. As nurses and midwives are among the most trusted health care providers, they are well situated to promote health, vaccinate and contribute to break down barriers to vaccination.

Nurses and midwives can contribute to increased access to screening and timely treatment of precancerous lesions. In many countries nurses and midwives already perform the majority of pap smears working in primary health care clinics. Now, nurses and midwives across the region must be empowered to work to the full scope of their education and training to provide girls and women safe and effective screening services including follow-up of test results. As the largest groups of female health practitioners, nurses and midwives are particularly well suited to provide health services to women.

Nurses and midwives are also essential to quality treatment and palliative care women with invasive cervical cancer and their families. Continuous professional development is critical to ensure patients receive up-to-date evidence-based, compassionate care.

The **International Council of Nurses (ICN)** is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally, ICN works to ensure quality nursing care for all and sound health policies globally.

The European Forum of National Nurses and Midwives Associations (European Forum - EFNNMA) is the joint voice of nursing and midwifery in the WHO European Region and was established to promote the continuous development of the nursing and midwifery professions in all Member States in the region in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office.