



## **71<sup>st</sup> WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

Provisional agenda item:

### **11.1 Draft thirteenth general programme of work, 2019-2023**

May 2018

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

Universal health coverage (UHC) will not be achieved without the active involvement of the largest group of healthcare professionals: nurses. Nursing input is essential in the development and implementation of all of the strategic priorities and, as such, ICN is very pleased that the role of Chief Nursing Officer has been reinstated. ICN is committed to the work being carried out in partnership with the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO), the Director General and WHO. Furthermore, we urge all countries to have a CNO as well as nurses in senior leadership positions in all health institutions.

Nurse-led models are crucial to achieve UHC and ICN is working through the WHO Global Service Delivery Network to support and promote nursing in primary and community settings. ICN is also supporting WHO in scaling-up efforts to implement the high-impact and cost-effective measures needed to tackle the global burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including by contributing to the Independent High-level Commission on NCDs.

ICN believes that populations should not only have access to essential life-saving health services, but work should be done to attempt to maintain services for immunisation, maternal and child health, mental health, and chronic conditions. WHO should support health systems strengthening in these areas in order to respond appropriately in times of emergencies.

As noted in the draft, WHO can only accomplish GPW 13 goals with partners including civil society. As such, we urge WHO to clearly define how it will apply the new Framework of Engagement of Non-State Actors, which to date is not clear and has yet to be fully implemented.

We look forward to collaborating with WHO and its partners to achieve the GPW 13 goals.

Thank you.