



ICN

International
Council of Nurses

Welcome Meeting



**ICN VIRTUAL
DELEGATION
- WHA79**

Welcome Meeting Agenda

- Welcome from ICN President
- Welcome from ICN CEO
- WHA practical information for delegates
- WHA agenda
- Interventions from delegates on WHA agenda items
- Questions

The 79th World Health Assembly

OPEN: Monday, 18 May @09:00

CLOSE: Saturday 23 May

Working hours: 09:00 to 12:00 and 14:30 to 17:30 (CEST)

- WHO's highest decision-making body, setting out the Organization's policy and approving its budget.
- Delegations from all WHO 194 Member States.
- Open to Member States, Associate Members, Observers, invited representatives of the UN and other participating inter-governmental organizations and non-State actors.

ICN CORE DELEGATES



JOSÉ LUIS COBOS SERRANO
ICN PRESIDENT



SINEVA MARIA RIBEIRO
ICN 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT



HOWARD CATTON
ICN CEO



ERICA BURTON
ICN SENIOR POLICY
ADVISOR



HOI SHAN FOKELADEH
ICN SENIOR POLICY
ADVISOR

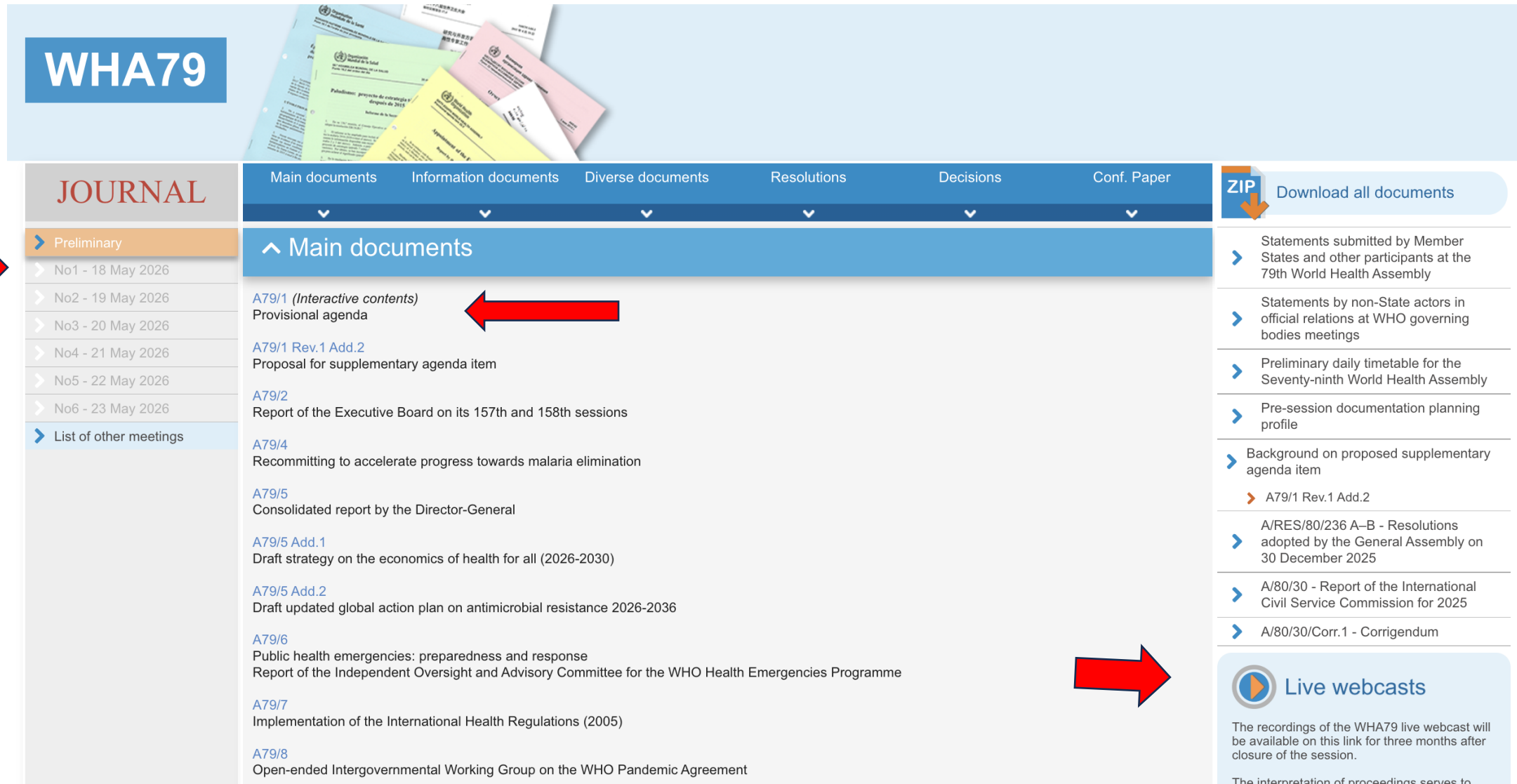


JOSEPHINE AGYEI
CHAIR, ICN ALLIANCE OF
STUDENT & EARLY CAREER
NURSES STEERING
COMMITTEE

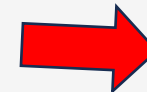
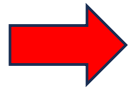


GILLIAN MOORE
ICN COMMUNICATIONS
ADVISOR

WHA79 Website: Documents & Journal



The screenshot shows the WHO website's WHA79 section. At the top left, there is a blue box with the text 'WHA79'. Below it is a navigation bar with tabs for 'Main documents', 'Information documents', 'Diverse documents', 'Resolutions', 'Decisions', and 'Conf. Paper'. To the right of this bar is a 'ZIP Download all documents' button. On the left side, there is a 'JOURNAL' section with a list of meetings from No1 to No6, and a 'List of other meetings' link. A red arrow points to the 'List of other meetings' link. The main content area is titled 'Main documents' and lists several items: 'A79/1 (Interactive contents) Provisional agenda', 'A79/1 Rev.1 Add.2 Proposal for supplementary agenda item', 'A79/2 Report of the Executive Board on its 157th and 158th sessions', 'A79/4 Recommitting to accelerate progress towards malaria elimination', 'A79/5 Consolidated report by the Director-General', 'A79/5 Add.1 Draft strategy on the economics of health for all (2026-2030)', 'A79/5 Add.2 Draft updated global action plan on antimicrobial resistance 2026-2036', 'A79/6 Public health emergencies: preparedness and response Report of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme', 'A79/7 Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)', and 'A79/8 Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the WHO Pandemic Agreement'. A red arrow points to the 'A79/1 (Interactive contents) Provisional agenda' link. On the right side, there is a list of documents with blue arrows pointing to the right, including 'Statements submitted by Member States and other participants at the 79th World Health Assembly', 'Statements by non-State actors in official relations at WHO governing bodies meetings', 'Preliminary daily timetable for the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly', 'Pre-session documentation planning profile', 'Background on proposed supplementary agenda item', 'A79/1 Rev.1 Add.2', 'A/RES/80/236 A-B - Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on 30 December 2025', 'A/80/30 - Report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2025', and 'A/80/30/Corr.1 - Corrigendum'. At the bottom right, there is a 'Live webcasts' section with a play button icon and text stating that recordings will be available for three months after closure and that an interpretation of proceedings is provided.



Committee live stream & recordings



All Upcoming Plenary **Committee A** Committee B

 World Health Organization	WHA79 Live on 18 May 2026 18/05/2026 - 23/05/2026
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Available languages: English Français Español عربي 中文 русский

The interpretation of proceedings serves to facilitate communication and does not constitute an authentic or verbatim record of the proceedings. Only the original speech is authentic.

What to expect on Monday

May 2026	Plenary	Committee A	Committee B	Other
Monday 18				
09:00	High-level welcome ¹	-	-	-
	1. Opening of the Health Assembly	-	-	-
	1.1 Appointment of the Committee on Credentials			
	1.2 Election of the President			
	1.3 Election of the five Vice-Presidents, the Chairs of the main committees, and establishment of the General Committee			
Upon closure of the plenary	-	-	-	General Committee
14:30	- Presidential address	-	-	-
	1.4 Adoption of the agenda and allocation of items to the main committees			
	2. Report of the Executive Board on its 157th and 158th sessions			
	3. Address by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General			
	- General discussion	Upon commencement of the General discussion	-	-
		10. Opening of the Committee		
		Protect health		
		13. Public Health emergencies: preparedness and response		
		Provide health		
		11. Recommitting to accelerate progress		


Stay connected & engaged

Daily forecast
& update

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#WHA79

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group

Contribute your policy messages



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2025

From WHA to Action: A Nursing Policy Guide for Global Health Advocacy & Decision-Making

ICN REPORT ON THE 78TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Prepared by Erica Burton, ICN Senior Policy Advisor, Nursing & Health Policy



• KEY AGENDA ITEMS FOR ICN AND NURSING •

PILLAR 1: ONE BILLION MORE PEOPLE BENEFITING FROM UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

Item 13.1 Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

Nursing policy considerations

The nursing workforce has an enormous contribution to make in the promotion, prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and needs to be a central part of any NCD strategy.

Community-based primary care is recognized as an effective strategy for reducing the burden of NCDs. Nurse-led community-based health services teams provide primary care services based on local health and community needs, with a focus on health promotion, disease prevention and chronic disease management.

Countries should invest in the continuous education of community health nurses and position them as the frontline in the prevention and management of NCDs within the community.

Regulatory frameworks should be updated to empower nurses, especially nurse practitioners and advanced practice nurses, with greater autonomy in providing preventative and ongoing care. This would improve access to care and allow nurses to utilize their full scope of practice in NCD management.

Agenda items to follow

- 12.2 Mental health
- 12.3 Communicable diseases
 - Immunization Agenda 2030
 - Road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030
 - End TB Strategy
- 12.4 Universal health coverage
 - Draft global strategy for integrated emergency, critical and operative care, 2026–2035
- 12.5 Primary healthcare
- 12.6 Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- 12.7 Substandard and falsified medical products
- 12.8 Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel
- 12.9 Draft updated global action plan on antimicrobial resistance
- 12.10 Harmonization of regulatory approaches, governance and standards for data, digital health and artificial intelligence in the health sector
- 13.1 Report of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme
- 13.2 Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)
- 13.3 Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the WHO Pandemic Agreement
- 14.1 WHO's work in health emergencies
- 14.2 Strengthening the evidence base for public health and social measures
- 15.1 Strengthening rehabilitation in health systems
- 15.2 Well-being and health promotion
 - Outcome of the WHO Commission on Social Connection
- 15.3 The health of Indigenous Peoples
- 15.4 Maternal, infant and young child nutrition
- 15.5 Draft strategy on the economics of health for all
- 17.1 & 17.2 Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan
- 20.1 Reform of the global health architecture and the UN80 Initiative

Expected decisions/resolutions

In addition to the resolutions and decisions recommended by the Executive Board, consultation processes have been held (or may be held) on the following:

- Draft resolution on outcome of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the WHO Pandemic Agreement
- Draft resolution on amendments to WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel
- Draft decision on the process design to support the transformation of the global health architecture



WHA79: Quick Glance: Items Grouped and Standalone items

Grouped	Standalone
11 + 12.3 – Malaria & Communicable Diseases	12.4 – Universal Health Coverage; <i>ECO, BT, RD</i>
12.1 + 12.2 – NCDs & Mental Health	13.3 – Pandemic Agreement
12.5 + 12.8 – PHC & Health Workforce	14.3 – Poliomyelitis
12.6 + 12.10 – SDGs & Digital Health	14.4 – WHA75.11 Implementation
12.7 + 12.9 – Medical Products & AMR	20.1 – Global Health Architecture
13.1 + 13.2 – Oversight & IHR	
14.1 + 14.2 – Health Emergencies & Public Health Measures	
15.1 + 15.3 + 15.4 – Rehab, Indigenous Health, & Nutrition	
15.2 + 15.5 – Well-being & Economics	
17.1 + 17.2 – Health Conditions (OPT & Golan)	

ICN Statements

Individual statement:

12.2 Mental health

12.3 Communicable diseases – Immunization Agenda 2030

12.4 Universal health coverage – Draft global strategy for integrated emergency, critical and operative care, 2026–2035

12.5 Primary healthcare

14.1 WHO's work in health emergencies

Constituency statement:

15.5 Draft strategy on the economics of health for all

Constituency & Joint Statements

ICN leading Constituency

15.5 Draft strategy on the economics of health for all

ICN joining constituency

12.6 Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

20.1 Reform of the global health architecture and the UN80 Initiative

Joint statement with WHPA

12.8 Report of the Expert Advisory Group on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel

12.10 Harmonization of regulatory approaches, governance and standards for data, digital health and artificial intelligence in the health sector



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