



## **SEVENTY-FIFTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

Provisional agenda item 15

### **Human resources for health**

May 2022

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) believes that the greatest threat to global health is workforce shortages. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused immense damage to individual nurses and the nursing workforce. ICN's recent report 'Sustain and Retain' shows high levels of nurse burnout and increased turnover. The evidence identifies a very high risk that shortages will be exacerbated by the pandemic which is extremely concerning.

The need for rapid growth of nurse supply is increasing international recruitment. To protect health workforces in low- and middle-income countries, governments are urged to monitor and report on recruitment practices and ensure compliance with the WHO Code of Practice and invest in nursing education with the aim of greater self-sufficiency in the supply of nurses.

To sustain and retain the nursing workforce, ICN urges Member States to implement and monitor the policy priorities of the Global Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery with a sharp focus on health worker safety and wellbeing. We urgently need Member States to take practical actions to support, protect and invest in nurses and all health workers.