

ICN AT THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY



International Council of Nurses
The global voice of nursing

Re-cap for 24 May 2023

ICN has a delegation of nurses at the WHA, with six delegates attending in person, and around 80 following the proceedings online. They continued making contributions to the debates and discussions of the WHA, including one formal intervention.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION & ICN STATEMENTS

The following key agenda items were discussed on May 24. ICN made statements on those highlighted:

- Continuing the discussion 14.1,14.2, 15.1, 15.2,15.3, the Assembly noted the reports, approved draft resolution [A76/A/CONF./3](#), rejected draft resolution [A76/A/CONF./4](#), concluded 14.1,14.2, 15.1, 15.2, and suspended 15.3.
- Continuing the discussion on **12. Global strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016–2030)**, noted the reports and closed the item

ICN Statement on 12. WHO Global strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016–2030)

Erica Burton, ICN's Consultant Nursing and Health Policy Senior Advisor, made a [statement](#) in discussions about WHO's strategy to transform women's health care.

Ms Burton said: "ICN strongly abhors the lack of access to services by women, their pervasive low socioeconomic status, and societal values that tolerate violence, sexual abuse and other violations of women's rights that are having a direct impact on the health of women and girls.

'ICN urges Member States to ensure access to sexual, reproductive, maternal, new-born and adolescent health services that are provided in a safe and inclusive environment. ICN also believes that countries must urgently prioritise actions and policies that protect and support the mental health of women, children and adolescents, and that mitigate and address the impacts of climate change on their health.'



MEETINGS

Dr Cipriano and Mr Catton met with Brigitte Feuillebois, the French Chief Nursing Officer (CNO), and they both met with WHO CNO and the WHO Nursing regional advisors.

EVENTS

ICN Nurse Delegates Luncheon

ICN also hosted a luncheon for all nurse delegates attending WHA, in person and virtually, which was also attended by dignitaries from a wide range of nations and global organisations, including the ministers of health from El Salvador, France, Jamaica, Malawi, New Zealand, Seychelles, Thailand and the UK , representatives from ICN's member organisations and senior representatives from leading health and humanitarian organisations.



Dr Pamela Cipriano, ICN President, welcomed the delegates and thanked everyone for attending. Dr Cipriano mentioned the WHA's theme this year, *WHO at 75: Saving lives. driving health for all*, highlighting that ICN has been making interventions at the WHA for the past 75 years.



“There has to be a nurse's voice, because nurses are fundamental to health, so we're glad those of you who are official members of your delegation are here as it is vitally important, as the largest profession, to be able to speak out on health issues.”

Dr Cipriano spoke about the importance of investment in health for all and about her recent participation in the United Nations high level meeting on pandemic preparedness and response, stressing the need for a strong and supported nursing workforce.

Dr Cipriano also took a moment to recognise nurses working in areas of conflict, including Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Haiti, Myanmar, Sudan and Ukraine.



ICN CEO Howard Catton read a statement from the Sudanese Nurses Organization, which thanked ICN for its support and solidarity, and highlighted the difficult circumstances in which Sudanese nurses are currently working.

From the Nursing and Health Policy Team, Consultant Senior Policy Advisor Erica Burton and Policy Advisor Hoi Shan Fokeladeh welcomed participants to the ICN Nurse Delegates Luncheon and spoke about the activities of the ICN delegation, the work to prepare, deliver and follow-up on the WHA and on the important WHA agenda statements that ICN had made so far.



Dr Amelia Afuha'amango Tu'ipulotu, WHO's Chief Nursing Officer, took to the floor to thank Dr Cipriano for her leadership, and told the nurses present that she had three requests:

"One is amplifying our voices...We need to sing the same song to invest, protect and strengthen the solution to reach universal health coverage and the sustainable development goals

'Secondly, we need to transform care, so that our populations feel the value, respect and compassion and, of course, safe quality care that you always deliver.

'Lastly, I call upon all of us to scale up our partnerships so that our voices are listened to, our voices are respected, valued, and all the skills of our nurses are taken into account to transform and enhance health systems to better serve the most vulnerable population of the world.'

Dr Cipriano and Mr Catton concluded the luncheon by encouraging all nurses to attend the ICN Congress in Montreal in July and wishing the delegates success in their discussions at WHA.

Side events

In addition to other meetings at WHA Dr Cipriano and Mr Catton attended the following side events:

- Dr Cipriano participated in an event about Integrated Emergency, Critical and Operative Care for Universal Health Coverage and Protection from Health Emergencies.
- Mr Catton attended a Johnson & Johnson Health Workforce Event at WHA entitled "Strengthening Health Systems to Achieve UHC: Innovation by and for the Frontline of Care".
- Mr Catton attended an event on 'Gender Equity in the Health Workforce for Health Systems Strengthening'.

TODAY'S AGENDA & ICN STATEMENTS

The following key agenda items are scheduled to be discussed today, May 25. ICN will make a statement on those highlighted:

- **13.1 Universal health coverage:** Reorienting health systems to primary health care as a resilient foundation for universal health coverage and preparations for a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on universal health coverage
- **13.2 Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and mental health:** Draft updated menu of policy options and cost-effective interventions for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases
- **13.3 Substandard and falsified medical products**
- **13.4 Strengthening rehabilitation in health systems**
- **13.5 Draft global strategy on infection prevention and control**