



Message from the ICN President

International Council of Nurses

Every day, nurses across the world overcome incredible challenges to care for their patients and communities. These challenges have been heightened during the past two years by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Several recent critically important reports address the issues facing the nursing profession, such as the global nursing shortage, the ageing nursing workforce, the mass traumatisation of nurses, the lack of protection, the increasing workloads and low salaries, all of which have led to many calls for investment in the nursing workforce in order to meet healthcare needs now and in the future.

In 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) published the first *State of the World's Nursing (SOWN)* report, an in-depth look at the nursing workforce, which identified important gaps in the nursing workforce and priority areas for investment in nursing education, jobs, and leadership to strengthen nursing around the world and improve health for all.

In 2021, WHO issued its *Global strategic directions for nursing and midwifery (SDNM) 2021-2025* which presents

evidence-based practices and an interrelated set of policy priorities that can help countries to ensure that midwives and nurses optimally contribute to achieving universal health coverage and other population health goals.

IND 2022 has taken these two important reports, along with recent reports published by the International Council of Nurses, such as *Sustain and Retain in 2022 and Beyond: The global nursing workforce and the COVID-19 pandemic*, and identified clear actions needed to implement the directions and policy priorities of the SDNM and the recommendations of the SOWN.

Nurses are catalysts for positive transformation to repel the forces that threaten global health and to build strong healthcare systems. We have seen the evidence and understand the need for investment and protection. Now is the time for action.

Dr Pamela F. Cipriano

President

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