



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

Provisional agenda item 16.2

### **Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies**

May 2022

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) continues to receive reports and collate evidence from 28 million nurses around the world of significant challenges they face in their working conditions, access to vaccines and therapeutics, mental health and psychological support. It is nurses and healthcare workers who have had to directly deal with the consequences of a lack of pandemic preparedness and why ICN strongly supports the development of a new international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response in accordance with IPPPR recommendations. ICN also calls on governments to invest in strengthening their nursing workforce as an essential part of preparedness for and response to health emergencies. Furthermore, nurse leaders and government chief nurses must be involved in the decision-making for concrete actions to prepare for future pandemics.

ICN is also extremely concerned by the increasing incidents of violence against healthcare in many countries and emphasizes that health personnel must be protected from threats and violence in all settings of healthcare delivery. Nurses and health care workers' rights are also human rights that must be respected.