

73rd Session of the Regional Committee of WHO for European region, Astana, Kazakhstan, 24–26 October 2023

4. Framework for Action on the health and care workforce in the WHO European Region 2023–2030

This joint statement by a consortium of nursing and midwifery NSA's speaking on behalf of the world's millions of nurses and midwives, supports the resolution to adopt the Framework for Action on the health and care workforce in the WHO European Region 2023–2030.

The ICN's 2023 *Recover to Rebuild* Report corroborates WHO Euro's Time to Act Report with a clear call to action: without substantial investment in adequately supported nurses and midwives, the prospect of effectively restoring and reconstructing healthcare systems after the COVID-19 pandemic remains unattainable. In alignment with the Bucharest Declaration on the health and care workforce, we prioritize health equity, strong nursing and midwifery regulatory mechanisms, nurse and midwife education, mental health of health workers, and improving the working conditions of health workers. We call on Member States to improve self-sufficiency of their health workforce to lessen the burden of nurse and midwife recruitment from LMIC to HIC.

Member states should develop robust regulatory mechanisms to ensure the competence and professional development of nurses and midwives based on the EU directive the mutual recognition of professional qualifications. Investment in nursing and midwifery education is required to guarantee a sustainable pipeline of skilled registered nurses and midwives. Member states should also invest in nursing and midwifery leadership beginning with instating a Government Chief Nursing Officer/Chief Midwifery Officer, with a budget to invest in nursing and midwifery.

The ICN's 2023 *Charter for Change* complements the WHO Euro Framework for Action emphasizing 10 key policy actions governments and employers must take to address the critical need to invest in and protect the nursing profession, ensuring equitable, people-centered care, safe working conditions, and recognition of nurses' and midwives' roles as key contributors to high-quality health systems. Let us collectively act on these priorities to strengthen healthcare systems and promote not only the well-being of both nurses and midwives but also the communities they serve.

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) is a federation of more than 130 national nurse's associations (NNAs), representing the more than 28 million nurses worldwide. ICN works to ensure quality nursing care for all, sound health policies globally, the advancement of nursing knowledge, and the presence worldwide of a respected nursing profession and a competent and satisfied nursing workforce.

The European Forum of National Nurses and Midwives Associations (EFNNMA) is the joint voice of nursing and midwifery in the WHO European Region and was established to promote the continuous development of the nursing and midwifery professions in all Member States in the region in collaboration with the WHO Regional Office

The European Nursing Students Association (ENSA) is the voice of national student associations and student bodies across Europe established to promote quality nursing education in Europe and advocate for nursing student's rights.