



International Council of Nurses  
The global voice of nursing



Japanese Nursing Association

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**Joint Statement to the G7 Leaders and Health Ministers**  
**by the International Council of Nurses**  
**and the Japanese Nursing Association**

On the occasion of the G7 Hiroshima Summit and G7 Health Ministers' Meeting in Nagasaki in May 2023, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the Japanese Nursing Association (JNA) call on the G7 to commit to action to support nurses and healthcare workers worldwide.

The G7 members have been committed to the promotion of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as one of their key issues. Reflecting on the experience with the COVID-19 pandemic and the global trend of rapidly declining birth rates and ageing populations, ICN and JNA propose three recommendations in order to support nurses and promote their active role in strengthening systems and realizing UHC.

1. Secure and rebuild the workforce for healthcare services to realize and strengthen UHC
2. Establish more effective and efficient healthcare systems
3. Increase investment in healthcare to develop better systems that are more resilient and equitable

As the largest health profession in the health workforce, nurses are intrinsically linked to the ability of countries to achieve UHC and the Sustainable Development Goals. They work across the life course and in all settings and work beyond health to uphold human rights, fight to reduce inequalities and empower people and communities. UHC will not be achieved without bold and innovative approaches to educate, develop and retain the health workforce.

As such, ICN and JNA encourage governments to heavily invest in a competent health workforce with a focus on nurses and midwives. This includes quality education, recruitment and retention strategies and assurance of decent work and fair pay. ICN and JNA firmly believe that health is the foundation for prosperous people, communities and economies. Achieving UHC requires political leadership beyond that of the health sector and we urge states and governments to drive political leadership for UHC in all sectors. We believe that investment in nursing is needed now if we are to meet the healthcare challenges of the future.

*Pamela F. Cipriano*

Dr Pamela F. Cipriano  
President  
International Council of Nurses

*Toshiko Fukui*

Dr Toshiko Fukui  
President  
Japanese Nursing Association

*The **International Council of Nurses (ICN)** is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally, ICN works to ensure quality care for all and sound health policies globally. [www.icn.ch](http://www.icn.ch)*

*The **Japanese Nursing Association (JNA)** was established in 1946 to represent licensed public health nurses, midwives, nurses, and assistant nurses. JNA is a national organization that operates in partnership with 47 prefecture nursing associations. [www.nurse.or.jp](http://www.nurse.or.jp)*