



ICN Intervention for UN Commission HEEG Ministerial Meeting 14/15 December 2016

ICN were an active partner in the development of the UN Commission report, strongly supports its recommendations and is committed to work with the global institutions and our network of over 130 National Nursing Associations, covering 16m nurses worldwide, to see these implemented for the benefit of healthcare workers and the patients and populations that they care for.

ICN hosted a consultation with 50 National Nursing Associations in May, made a series of written submissions and following the launch of the report has already held discussions with 25 National Nursing Associations at Forums in Washington and Beijing.

ICN is willing and able to continue this work through Country and Regional meetings and events that can;

- communicate and raise awareness of the Commission's recommendation amongst the global nursing community
- identify the challenges, barriers and enablers at local, national and regional level to implementation
- work with partner agencies to contribute to monitoring and reporting on progress in delivering the action plan

ICN and its Nursing Associations are uniquely placed to provide feedback from both the front line of care delivery and also at the Country and Regional level that is critically to bridging the policy practice divide. Next year in Barcelona ICN hosts the flagship International Nursing conference and the health workforce and Commissions report and action plan will be a major focus of debate and discussion with the thousands of nurses who attend.

ICN can be a conduit to harness the expertise and experience of Nurses from around the world to advice on strategies and actions to;

- Empower women through institutionalizing their leadership
- Scaling up transformative education for both new nurses and existing staff

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3, place Jean-Marteau, 1201 Geneva - Switzerland - Tel.: +41 22 908 01 00
Fax: +41 22 908 01 01 - e-mail: icn@icn.ch - web: www.icn.ch

- Identify opportunities through which advanced nursing roles can develop, widening and strengthening healthcare delivery, and advice on the appropriate development of new cadres
- Advise on clinically effective technologies to improve access to and the quality of health services
- Develop and promote the capabilities of nursing in humanitarian, conflict and disaster settings
- Support the development of workforce planning systems to ensure the right numbers of staff with the right skills in the right place at the right time
- Identify unsafe and unfair working conditions and practices and advocate for and negotiate improvements in working conditions and environments
- With Nursing Associations monitor and lobby for health spending and investment

ICN also has a strategic collaboration, ICNM, which is a global resource for nurse migration. It includes global nursing experts and is well placed to support the work of the international platform recommended by the Commission.

There are significant interdependencies between the UN Commission report and the WHO Strengthening Nursing and Midwifery strategy. Aligning the action plans for these strategies is important and ICN suggest an advisory group, including key nursing stakeholders, is established to undertake this work.

As the single largest professional group comprising close to half of all health care workers Nurses are decisive in delivering the Commissions ambitions. Put another way Nursing will be a touchstone for both progress against and delivery on the Commission's recommendations and that should be reflected in the action plan.