



To: Presidents/Executive Directors/General Secretaries of ICN Member Associations

From: Annette Kennedy, President, International Council of Nurses

Date: 6 April 2018

Subject : **NCD web-based consultation**

In 2018, the United Nations General Assembly (UN) is staging the third High-level Meeting on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). As part of preparation for this meeting, the World Health Organization (WHO) has established a High-level Commission on NCDs to identify innovative ways to reduce mortality and improve life expectancy from diseases such as cardiovascular disease, cancers, diabetes, respiratory disease as well as reducing suffering from mental health issues.

ICN has been actively involved in providing recommendations to support the Commission, and we are delighted that Annette Kennedy has been appointed as a Commissioner. ICN has strongly advocated for the inclusion of a nurse on the technical expert group as well as providing several innovative recommendations for consideration by the Commission.

The High-level Commission is due to publish the first draft of its report in early April 2018. **A web-based public consultation will then be open 16-26 of April 2018 – we strongly encourage you to keep an eye out for this for your chance to contribute. It is expected that a link for consultation will be posted on this website (<http://www.who.int/ncds/governance/high-level-commission/en/>).**

Our strategic partner, Nursing Now, has created a guide for the NCD Consultation. This can be found by following this link <http://www.nursingnow.org/influencing-ncds-commission-guide/#>

Attached to this letter, you will find **ICN's recommendations to the Commission**, which focuses solely on the nursing profession. We strongly believe that the health workforce is central to tackling global health challenges. We firmly believe that the health workforce, and in particular, the nursing workforce be specifically included in the actions. As the WHO report stated in 2013, "No Health without a health workforce." Unfortunately, there has been very little focus on the health professions as an enabler of improving health outcomes related to NCDs.

The nursing workforce is a powerful force for change in addressing the challenges posed by NCDs. The reasons for this include:

- Nurses are the health professionals closest to the community – the first and sometimes only health professional that many people will ever see.
- They are part of the local community and understand its culture
- Nursing philosophy, values and practice mean that nurses take a holistic and long-term view of patients and a bio-psycho-social- environmental perspective on health that encompasses the determinants of health as well as the care of patients.
- There are more than 20 million nurses worldwide.

These reasons highlight that nurses are ideally placed to mobilize community assets and work with others locally on prevention, promotion and control of NCDs. Nurses are at the centre of health care delivery providing supervision, navigating or linking with other health professionals across all specialties.

By engaging in the consultation process, and supporting ICN's recommendations, you have a unique opportunity to ensure our profession will play an active role in the fight against NCDs.

We will continue to put the latest information on the NCD Commission on our website here : <http://www.icn.ch/what-we-do/WHO-Independant-High-level-Commission-on-NCDs/>

I believe that **together**, NNAs can have a profound impact on the outcome of this Commission's work. **Together**, we can empower nurses across the world to beat NCDs. Now is our time. So please take the time to engage in this WHO High-level Commission consultation process.



Annette Kennedy
President
International Council of Nurses