



**International  
Confederation  
of Midwives**  
Strengthening Midwifery Globally



**CAIRNS STATEMENT  
GLOBAL NETWORK OF WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
COLLABORATING CENTRES FOR NURSING AND MIDWIFERY  
GENERAL MEETING – CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

The General Meeting of the Global Network World Health Organization Collaborating Centres for Nursing and Midwifery (GN WHO CC) was held on Friday 20th July 2018, at James Cook University, Cairns, Australia. This meeting was held in conjunction with the 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial of the WHO Collaborating Centres for Nursing and Midwifery Conference; “UHC: The Sustainable Development Goals are Everyone’s Business.”

Sixty members, partners and colleagues with 29 different WHO Collaborating Centres (WHO CCs) were represented at the meeting. While 34 WHO CCs registered, 6 were unable to attend due to visa and travel issues. The WHO Chief Nursing Officer, senior representatives from WHO Geneva and EMRO, and the Papua New Guinea country office were all in attendance. The GN WHO CC partner organisations International Council of Nurses (ICN), International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), and JHPIEGO also attended.

Reports from each of the 6 WHO regions of the world were given and the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing officially assumed the role of Secretariat at the close of the meeting. The GN WHO CC recognises and supports WHO’s Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030, Sustainable Development Goals and Universal Health Coverage both of which can only be met with the full contribution of the nursing and midwifery workforce.

The GN WHO CC would like to congratulate Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on his appointment of Ms. Elizabeth Iro as the global Chief Nursing Officer. Already the benefits of this position creating a voice for nurses and midwives, who represent more than 50% of the global health workforce, have been noted globally and regionally. This meeting showcased some of the significant work that has been achieved through these and related efforts, including the strengthening of partnerships developed with ICM, ICN, Sigma Theta Tau International (Sigma), and JHPIEGO.

The meeting affirmed the commitment of the Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Nursing and Midwifery and developed this consensus statement. The Global Network of WHO CCs:

1. Welcomes its inclusion in both the State of the World’s Nursing Report and the State of the World’s Midwifery Report.
2. Requests the reinstatement of regional nursing and midwifery key contacts within the WHO.
3. Commits to improve its research outputs with the aim of sharing country, regional and global expertise with both WHO and partner organisations.
4. Agrees to work with partner organisations to provide joint statements at regional and global WHO events.



**International  
Confederation  
of Midwives**  
Strengthening Midwifery Globally



5. Commits to advocate for including consultation with nurses and midwives within global health policy and decision-making.
6. Commits to ensure nursing and midwifery are recognised in the 40<sup>th</sup> Alma Ata anniversary.
7. Contributes to Florence Nightingale Bicentenary 2020 (26-28 Oct) by supporting global nursing leadership in line with the Triple Impact Report.
8. Supports the continuous implementation of the *Global Strategic Directions for Strengthening Nursing and Midwifery 2016-2020*.
9. Requests clarity around the working relationships of WHO CCs with WHO, geographical area of work and WHO CC Terms of Reference.
10. Commits to linking individual Collaborating Centres' Terms of Reference with the Nursing Now Campaign and promoting collaboration.