



EFNNMA STATEMENT

on strengthening nursing and
midwifery workforce in the
WHO European Region



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Achieving health-related Millennium Development Goals: strengthening nursing and midwifery workforce in the WHO European Region

The European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations and WHO,

1. **CONSCIOUS** that nurses and midwives are the largest proportion of the health workforce, providing expert, skilled care to the population of Europe;
2. **UNDERSTANDING** that professional knowledge and research is the basis to guarantee evidence-based practice for the benefit of the people;
3. **AWARE** that developing professional roles affects the contribution to health service development and delivery;
4. **UNDERSTANDING** that comprehensive workforce planning strategies, legislative and regulatory frameworks are needed to enable nurses and midwives to work effectively, efficiently and promote patient safety;
5. **AWARE** of the importance of a high level of initial education and continuous professional development;
6. **CONCERNED** that financial constraints may undermine the future development of nurses and midwives and lead to a decrease in a minimum level of initial professional education;
7. **RECOGNIZING** the need for conceptualising, determining and measuring quality of nursing and midwifery services;

URGES nurses and midwives to:

8. demonstrate the impact of nurses and midwives on health outcomes and thus strengthen their role as a resource for better health;
9. participate in the development of effective and efficient nursing and midwifery services;
10. engage in nursing and midwifery research as being essential to effective health service;
11. comply with their code of practice and maintain and update their competence as part of their professional accountability;
12. promote interprofessional education and collaborative practice¹;

¹ World Health Organization (2009) *Framework for Action on Interprofessional Education & Collaborative Practice*, Geneva, World Health Organization

URGES governments to:

13. note that nursing and midwifery practice is a fundamental resource for health and that the core functions performed by nurses and midwives are vital to health systems and services;
14. guarantee nurses and midwives the professional education that will enable them to practice and function within an ever changing work environment and increasingly demanding situations;
15. include health professionals in the development of quality indicator information gathering systems in order to efficiently evaluate quality of care;
16. use staffing and performance monitoring tools, in order to effectively plan, implement, monitor and evaluate the use of health care resources;
17. support nursing and midwifery research in order to underpin nursing and midwifery practice and to generate knowledge;
18. support the development of autonomous national nursing and midwifery professional associations/organizations in order to strengthen the professions;
19. involve professional nursing and midwifery associations/organizations in the capacity building of health care systems;
20. adopt existing global definitions of nurses and midwives, protect the title of nurses and midwives to ensure reliable data for workforce planning policies, patient safety, proper registration and professional mobility;

URGES National Nursing Associations and National Midwifery Associations to:

21. engage with governments to build and strengthen capacity in health care systems to achieve health-related Millennium Development Goals;
22. strengthen and advance the role of nurses and midwives through advocating for education, legislation and regulation;
23. advocate for the improvement of management, leadership and positive practice and working environment within health care services;
24. respond to significant demographic and epidemiological changes through assuring and improving the quality of care;
25. support lifelong learning activities so that nurses and midwives can meet current challenges and changes in population demographics and health systems enhancement;
26. promote the development and use of quality and performance indicators to measure patient safety and quality of care.

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