



Concept Note for Proposed Side Event WHA73

Palliative Nursing and Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

Aims:

- To celebrate the contribution of palliative care nurses around the world in honor of the Year of the Nurse Midwife;
- To highlight unmet need and galvanise support for further delivery of palliative care nursing following WHO member state commitments in the following multilateral instruments:
 - The Political Declaration of the 2019 High-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on Universal Health Coverage;
 - the Declaration of Astana on Primary Healthcare, 2018;
 - The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 17) and
 - the WHA resolution on Strengthening of Palliative Care as a Component of Comprehensive Care Throughout the Life Course (WHA67.19);
- To bring a gender focus to the recognition of, and need for support, for nurses and informal caregivers worldwide, the majority of whom are women and girls caring for patients with serious health related suffering;
- To launch the *Global Report on the Contribution of Nurses to Palliative Care*.

Relevant WHA 73 Agendas Items (Provisional agenda)

- Pillar 1: One billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage (UHC)
 - 11.1 Primary health care (PHC)
 - 11.2 Follow-up to the high-level meetings of the United Nations General Assembly on health-related issues and
 - Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world;
 - 11.4 cervical cancer;

Rationale for side event. WHA72 designated 2020 as the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife in honour of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. Since nurses and midwives provide over 50% of the health workforce in many countries, they are essential to the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and SDG3, Target 3.8. Although palliative care (PC) is now recognized as component of UHC, access to palliative care remains one of the most *inequitable* areas of global health. Member states are currently leaving millions of their most vulnerable populations experiencing serious health related suffering behind. These include children, older persons, refugees, migrants, prisoners, patients, and family caregivers who serve with no training, support, equipment or adequate recompense. Palliative care nursing can bridge this clinical and normative abyss.

The recognition of the contribution of nurses and midwives to palliative care through the celebration of the Year of the Nurse and Midwife offers a unique opportunity to strengthen the nursing component of Universal Health Coverage and to help governments relieve the preventable pain and suffering of so many individuals and families around the world. The WHO is leading the development of the *State of the World's Nursing* report, which will analyse nursing in relation to the GPW13 targets, and which will be released prior to WHA73. *Nursing Now* – a three-year campaign (2018-2020) to improve global health outcomes by raising the status of nursing -- will also culminate in 2020.

Expert side event panelists will recommend that member states wishing to

- *honour* their commitments to celebrate the Year of the Nurse and Midwife (WHA72(19))
- *develop* Universal Health Coverage and Primary Health Care,
- *achieve* the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and
- *deliver* on WHA resolution 67.19,

take the following steps with all deliberate speed:

- Require universities, nursing schools and teaching hospitals, to include basic palliative care (PC) training and modules for all nurses and midwives;
- Adopt an essential package of medicines, equipment, and staffing for the delivery of palliative care within the context of UHC;
- Support strong collaborations with accredited civil society organizations, including the development of global, regional, and national networks between PC organisations, nursing organisations, and WHO regional and country offices.

Proposed Panelists:

- Health Ministers of Australia, Bangladesh, Zambia and other member state co-sponsors
- Mrs Elizabeth Iro, Chief Nursing Officer World Health Organization)
- Prof Patsy Yates, President of the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care
- Mr Howard Catton, Chief Executive, International Council of Nurses
- Front line palliative care nurses from Australia and other sponsoring member states;

Member State Co-Sponsors:

- Australia (tbc)
- Argentina (tbc)
- Bangladesh (tbc)
- Kenya (tbc)
- Zambia (tbc)

NSA Co-Sponsors

- Alzheimer's Disease International (tbc)
- European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) (tbc)
- G4 Alliance (tbc)
- Help Age International (tbc)
- International Association for the Study of Pain (tbc)
- International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care
- International Council of Nurses
- International Federation on Ageing (IFA) (tbc)
- Non-Communicable Diseases Alliance (tbc)
- Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)
- Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance
- WONCA (tbc)

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