



International
Confederation
of Midwives
Strengthening Midwifery Globally



Her Excellency
Ms Salome Zourabichvili
President of Georgia
Tbilisi
Géorgie

10 December 2019

Your Excellency,

The World Health Assembly has designated 2020 as Year of the Nurse and Midwife.

We ask that you join us in marking this commemoration by including a mention in your New Year address. We hope that you will also take the opportunity to help us celebrate the important work of nurses and midwives throughout 2020.

The world's 22 million nurses and 2 million midwives make up half of the global health workforce – providing vital health care everywhere. They have been doing this for generations: midwifery is one of the world's earliest professions, and in 2020 we mark the 200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.

It is therefore an opportune time to recognize the critical contributions of both professions to global health. It is time, therefore, to recognize the critical contribution both professions make to global health, and to highlight the urgent need for increased investment, training and support. If the world is to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the target of universal health coverage by the 2030 deadline, national governments must scale up investment in midwives and nurses.

By developing nursing and midwifery leadership and technologies, countries can help ensure unimpeded access to high-quality and cost-effective health care, while also investing in future economic and social prosperity.

cc : Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva

Together, we will be recognizing the millions of caring, skilled and inspirational midwives and nurses around the world – and highlighting their work to ensure that they get the support they need to have an even greater impact in the years to come.

We look forward to hearing from you on your planned activities for the Year of the Nurse and Midwife. On behalf of nurses and midwives everywhere, we thank you for your support of this initiative.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of our highest consideration.



Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General
World Health Organization (WHO)



Annette Kennedy –President,
International Council of
Nurses (ICN)



Franka Cadée
President, International
Confederation of Midwives
(ICM)



Lord Crisp and Professor Sheila Tlou
Co-Chairs
Nursing Now (NN)



Natalia Kanem
Executive Director, United
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