



United Nations Activity Report

The [68th United Nations Civil Society Conference “Building Inclusive and Sustainable Cities and Communities”](#) was held 26-28 August 2019 in Salt Lake City, Utah, United States.

The three-day conference, co-hosted by the United Nations [Department of Global Communications](#), Salt Lake City, and the [NGO Executive Committee](#), featured opening and closing plenary sessions, interactive thematic sessions, NGO-sponsored workshops, exhibits, and a youth hub.

Report Submitted by Aric Shimek, Sigma United Nations Liaison

Maternal-Child Health Crisis: Building the Leadership Framework for Effective Global Interventions
presented by Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing

Key takeaways included the value and power of public-private partnerships, as well as the demonstrated benefits of expanding access to and replicating the structure of Sigma’s leadership academies in more countries, representing more specialties within nursing, and including nurses at a larger variety of career levels.

Moderator of session: Elizabeth A. Madigan, Chief Executive Officer, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Speakers included: Beth Baldwin Tigges, President, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing; Chun-Mei Li, Director, Johnson & Johnson Foundation; Shanda Harrison, Case Manager, Children’s Hospital Colorado, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

This session focused on [Sustainable Development Goal #3](#) and [Sustainable Development Goal #4](#) as they relate to developing educational training academies to combat challenges in public and global health.

Good health touches all 17 [Sustainable Development Goals](#), with access to quality care and health education serving as both a precursor and outcome of our ability to achieve them. This panel discussion focused on the value of partnerships and highlighted the special relationship between Sigma and Johnson & Johnson. Began in 2002 with the creation of the Maternal Child Health Think Tank, this relationship has sought to address the key challenge of leadership development, which is needed in order to equip nurses worldwide to lead the way in improving maternal-child health. An overview of both organizations was provided, followed by a detailed overview of the Nurse Leadership Academy’s structure and the role of Sigma’s Institute for Global Health Leadership. Focused on the skills needed to effectively lead interprofessional teams, the Nurse Leadership Academies were formed to improve the quality of healthcare for underserved populations. As Ms. Li noted, “When you invest in nurses, it has a ripple effect on women and children which in turn will have a positive effect in creating a prosperous community.” A selection of quality improvement projects spearheaded by Academy fellows was reviewed to demonstrate the power of nurses creating change and advancing health for all.