



United Nations Activity Report

“Nurses: Voice to Lead, Health and Climate Change; Achieving the SDGs” was part of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#).

The 60-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, NY, United States, 12-23 March 2018.

Report Submitted by Marnie Colborne, Sigma United Nations Youth Representative

This session’s purpose was to provide an overview of the [International Council of Nurses](#) (ICN) and introduce [Nursing Now](#), a 3-year global health campaign with collaboration between ICN and the [World Health Organization](#). The event also introduced [Dr. Debra Anderson](#), Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery at [Griffith University](#), Australia, and Director and Researcher for [Women’s Wellness Research Program](#) for women with chronic diseases.

Panelists: Dr. Debra Anderson (see above link); [Mr. Howard Catton](#), Director, Nursing and Health Policy ICN; [Erica Burton](#), RN, Senior Analyst, Nursing and Health Policy, ICN; Dr. Holly Shaw, ICN Representative in New York; and special guest Baroness Emily Watkins

Nurses are fundamental enablers to make headway on the strategic priorities as outlined by ICN and the global health priorities, including: 2030 Sustainable Development Goals; universal health coverage; humanitarian disasters; United Nations Commission on Human Resources; integrated and people-centered care; and a shift to public health with a focus on health risks, including non-communicable diseases.

ICN Strategic Priorities include:

- 1) Universal Health Coverage
- 2) Person-Centered Care
- 3) Human Resources for Health
- 4) Antimicrobial Resistance
- 5) Mental Health
- 6) Aging
- 7) Non-Communicable Diseases
- 8) Immunizations
- 9) Sustainable Development Goals

Factors affecting Universal Health Coverage include:

- Effective and efficient health system
- Competent workforce

- Availability
- Affordability
- Addressing the determinants of health

Baroness Emily Watkins spoke to leadership in nursing and the importance of nurses in politics and leadership positions, such as in the World Health Organization. Lady Watkins also made it clear that it should be a priority that a chief nurse is named in every country, which poses as an issue when looking at countries (such as Canada) with provincial law surrounding health.

Lady Watkins also explored the idea that nursing is not seen as a profession in most places in the world, which needs to be challenged. We must encourage nurses to organize at country, regional, and global levels and help nurses around the world to become better organized at country, regional, and global levels.

Erica Burton focused on different initiatives/movements and campaigns put forward by ICN which must be shared with colleagues. A few advocacy campaigns include:

- Health Care in Danger
- World Heart Day
- Maternal and Child Health
- Counterfeit Medicines: Fight the Fakes
- Healthcare is #NotATarget
- Health workforce 2030
- Workplace violence in the health sector
- UN Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth

Dr. Debra Anderson provided an example of a research program she implemented to work toward our global health goals. Dr. Anderson's wellness programs utilize a nurse-led approach to promoting health-related quality of life after cancer.