



Meet Our UN Representatives: Sanele Lukhele

Dr. Sanele Lukhele is a South African nurse-midwife, midwife specialist, and global health leader. She is committed to strengthening midwifery systems, improving maternal and neonatal outcomes, and elevating nursing voices within international policy spaces. Dr. Lukhele is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Nursing at the University of the Free State and holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Sciences from the University of Pretoria.

A committed Sigma Nursing member since 2015, Dr. Lukhele has contributed to the organisation's mission through sustained leadership and service. From 2017 to 2019, she served on the board-appointed Next Generation Leaders Task Force, where she contributed to the development of training materials to support effective chapter leadership, recruitment, and retention. At the chapter level, she has served as Faculty Counsellor and Interim Secretary for the Chi-Xi at-Large Chapter. Currently, Dr. Lukhele serves as Faculty Counsellor for the Alpha Beta Beta Chapter. Her leadership journey was further strengthened through Sigma's Maternal and Child Health Nurse Leadership Academy.

Dr. Lukhele serves as Co-Chair of the Nursing Now Challenge Africa Regional Hub, advocating for the visibility and development of early-career nurses and midwives across the continent. Nationally, she contributes to strengthening health systems as a member of South Africa's Technical Working Group on Safe Surgical Care and through her support of policy development related to anaesthesia, surgery, and obstetric services. She also serves as Secretary of the Society of Midwives of South Africa. Dr. Lukhele is a fellow of the Women in Global Health Leadership, a collaborative initiative between the University of Toronto, Moi University, and the University of Cape Town in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation.

Dr. Lukhele's research portfolio spans maternal, child, and newborn health. She has published widely in peer-reviewed international journals, supervised postgraduate research, secured competitive national grants, and presented at both national and international conferences.

Driven by a commitment to advancing midwifery-led care, building equitable health systems, and strengthening African leadership within global nursing platforms, Dr. Lukhele brings to the Sigma United Nations Liaison role an evidence-based, advocacy-driven, and globally engaged perspective.