

EDITORIAL MESSAGE



The Theme for 2017

Nurses: “A voice to lead – Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals”

This year, ICN has chosen the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the focus for International Nurses Day (IND) on 12 May 2017, we may wonder aren't these goals meant for politicians and high-level diplomats? What these busy & exhausted nurses like us do possibly?

The SDGs build on the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), but go much further and are intended to finish the job started by the MDGs. They are designed to address inequalities, not only between countries but within countries, and so the goals will be applicable to every country – rich or poor. While only one of the 17 SDGs directly mentions health, a link exists between health and almost every other goal – no poverty, zero hunger, quality education, gender equality, peace, climate action, decent work, etc. Each of these has a real and direct impact on health, and thus, ICN has chosen to address this important issue. Every nurse can make a contribution to these goals.

ICN has already launched our IND website, www.icnvoicetolead.com, where you can share your stories online. On first January 2016, the 17 SDGs were drawn up by the United Nations General Assembly (2015), along with 169 associated targets and enablers. Also, suggests a wide range of contributions that nurses can make in pursuing health in all policies. The SDGs are a road map, laying out the vision for a healthy, peaceful and prosperous world. They can only be achieved if things are done differently and as nurses, we have an especially important part to play. Our voice is the voice of the individuals, families, groups and communities with whom we work. Our voice is the voice more than 16 million nurses around the globe. It is the voice to lead global transformation.

They contain 17 goals covering a broad range of sustainable development issues. Such as ending poverty, hunger, improving health and education, combating climate change etc. The 191 UN Member States have agreed to achieve these new goals by 2030. Health has a central place in SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well being for all ages and clearly nursing has a major role to play in relation to SDG such as education and poverty – these are often referred to as the social determinants of health (SDH). The SDH are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live and impact on the conditions of health and daily lives. While nurses seek to help people achieve their optimal health, our work frequently included addressing the SDH and nurses understand the links between wider conditions and individual and population health. The SDGs present us with an opportunity to apply the knowledge we have as nurse to create a healthier and a better world. The SDGs don't just relate to people in low income countries. The realization of these targets will improve the lives of people in our communities, our families, and even our own health.

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