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ICN endorses Tokyo Declaration on Patient Safety

Geneva, Switzerland – 09 May 2018 – The International Council of Nurses (ICN) has formally endorsed the Tokyo Declaration on Patient Safety which was developed at the Third Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety held in Tokyo, Japan, 13-14 April 2018.

Founded on the policies articulated in World Health Assembly resolution WHA55.18 (2002), which urged Member States to *“pay the closest possible attention to the problem of patient safety and establish and strengthen science-based systems, necessary for improving patient safety and the quality of health care”*, the Tokyo Declaration on Patient Safety calls for greater commitment to accelerate progress towards improving patient safety globally.

“ICN welcomes the Tokyo Declaration on Patient Safety,” said Annette Kennedy, ICN President. “With a strong focus on people-centred care and supporting patient health literacy to empower patients to be active participants in their own care, ICN supports putting a greater emphasis on engaging patients and families to improve patient safety and encourages governments to involve them in the development of all relevant policies and strategies.”

The JNA who represented ICN at the Summit, was given the opportunity to speak on behalf of ICN and stressed that nurses should be central to the design and operation of all health providers’ patient safety systems and processes. ICN called for an appropriate number of nurses with a suitable mix of education, skills and experience available at all times across the continuum of care, and urged governments to ensure funding is sufficient to deliver needs-based staffing. The full ICN statement is available [here](#).

Dr. Toshiko Fukui, President of the Japanese Nurses Association (JNA) added “JNA was delighted to have this opportunity to speak on behalf of ICN and nursing at this important Summit. As evident in our survey, appropriate nurse staffing as well as participation by the patients and their family is essential to achieve positive patient outcomes. In order to facilitate the process, patients and their families should be empowered so that they should be comfortable to speak for themselves. A patient safety system must be integrated into the pursuit of Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals.”

By endorsing the Declaration, ICN:

- Affirms its strong commitment to maintain a high level of political momentum on “Global action on Patient Safety” in countries across the world, and to work closely with countries across the world, including low- and middle income countries, in order to strengthen capability through collaboration and learning; and to prioritize patient safety in health sector policies and programmes while advancing efforts towards UHC;
- Pledges to support and enable health care institutions, both public and private, from the level of primary care through to referral level care, to implement changes in systems and practices to improve patient safety, while contributing to achieving UHC and SDGs;
- Commits to building capacity in leadership and management to support patient-centred care, implement and strengthen patient safety systems and processes, create a culture of safety and transparency, align incentives, educate and train the health workforce in patient safety, engage patients and families, increase efficiency and minimize harm by sharing knowledge on risks, best practices and successful models;
- And will work collaboratively with patients and families who have been affected by harm, international organizations and other key stakeholders to increase visibility and work towards global action on patient safety, including the establishment of an annual World Patient Safety Day, to be celebrated on 17 September each year.

Note for Editors

The **International Council of Nurses** (ICN) is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally, ICN works to ensure quality care for all and sound health policies globally.

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