The role of ICN in enhancing the value of nursing

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The international Council of Nurses (ICN) has been the global voice of nursing for more than 120 years, and this year especially, it remains at the centre of the global nursing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our efforts have ensured that we have coordinated information from our 130-plus National Nursing Associations (NNAs) and made certain that the efforts of nurses around the world are recognised by the people and the governments that they serve.

As the pandemic continues on its terrible path circling the globe, ICN is urging governments to respond appropriately to the effects it is having on the nursing workforce and prepare for an uncertain future.

The State of the World’s Nursing report, which we published with the World Health Organization earlier this year, gives governments all the information they need to support the nursing profession over the next decade. Our job, and that of our NNAs, is to make sure that it is used by governments to bring about the changes that are needed, in terms of nurse education, jobs and leadership, to make healthcare for all a reality in the next decade.

ICN will continue to advocate for nurses, and champion the case for investment in nursing, and our analysis of the nursing world, for example in our new report about immigration in the time of COVID-19, will help us to build a better future.

Nurses deserve to see the efforts they have made this year rewarded with decent pay and conditions, extra investment in their training and education, and a recognition of the leading role they have played during the pandemic.

This past year we have seen the old stereotypes of nurses swept away by a more realistic image of a profession hard at work, doing courageous things in difficult and sometimes dangerous circumstances. That can only lead to a better future for our profession and the next generation who will carry on your great work.