2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

This year, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) launched by the United Nations in 2000 will come to an end. In September 2015, the United Nations will release their development goals for the next 15 years (to 2030) titled the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There are at present, 17 SDGs, each with a set of targets. The 17 SDGs are:

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.
Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

The development of the Sustainable Development Goals has been the result of a comprehensive consultation process conducted by the United Nations over a period of two years. While the Goals themselves appear to have been agreed, there is still opportunity for input into the targets. The targets for Goal 3, the health goal, are outlined on the next page. The final UN report on the MDGs is expected to be released within the next couple of months. Assessed globally, some of the MDGs have been met although the situation in individual countries may be different. The Guardian newspaper has done a useful mapping exercise to see how the proposed SDGs match with the MDGs that they are replacing.

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Goal 3 which relates to health has at present 13 targets and it is important that all health professionals, particularly nurses and midwives are familiar with them and begin the discussion now as to how governments are planning to meet the goals and targets.

1. by 2030 reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births,
2. by 2030 end preventable deaths of newborns and under-five children,
3. by 2030 end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases,
4. by 2030 reduce by one-third pre-mature mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and wellbeing,
5. strengthen prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol,
6. by 2020 halve global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents,
7. by 2030 ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes,
8. achieve universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all,
9. by 2030 substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination,
10. strengthen implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries as appropriate,
11. support research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the TRIPS agreement regarding flexibilities to protect public health and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all,
12. increase substantially health financing and the recruitment, development and training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in LDCs and SIDS,
13. strengthen the capacity of all countries, particularly developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction, and management of national and global health risks.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

3rd Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Conference
London UK 12-13 March 2016

The 3rd Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Conference will be held in London UK 12-13 March 2016 (see conference notice on the second page of this e-New). The theme of the conference is: Toward 2020: celebrating nursing and midwifery leadership. The conference will showcase and celebrate the work of nursing and midwifery leaders who have followed in the footsteps of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, the first nursing theorists, a great nursing leader and a role model for nurses and midwives everywhere. Abstracts close 30 June 2015. Go to: http://www.commonwealthnurses.org/conference2016 to submit your abstract or email to: jill@commonwealthnurses.org.