



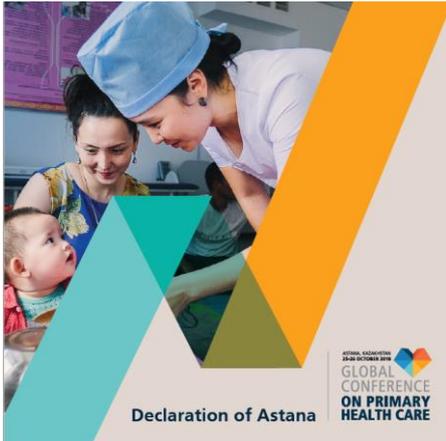
# COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION

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## Declaration of Astana

October 2018

*From Alma Ata toward universal health coverage  
and the Sustainable Development Goals*



Available from:

<https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/primary-health/declaration/gcphc-declaration.pdf>

Heads of States and Governments, Ministers, and representatives of States and Governments met at Astana, Kazakhstan 25-26 October 2018 for the Global Conference on Primary Health Care and reaffirmed commitments made at Alma Ata in 1978 in pursuit of 'health for all'. Their vision, outlined in the Declaration of Astana is for:

**Governments and societies** that prioritize, promote and protect people's health and wellbeing, at both population and individual levels, through strong health systems.

**Primary health care and health services** that are high quality, safe, comprehensive, integrated, accessible, available and affordable for everyone and everywhere, provided with compassion, respect and dignity by health professionals who are well-trained, skilled, motivated and committed.

**Enabling and health-conducive environments** in which individuals and communities are empowered and engaged in maintaining and enhancing their health and wellbeing.

**Partners and stakeholders** aligned in providing effective support to national health policies, strategies and plans.

The Declaration acknowledges that in spite of remarkable progress over the last 40 years, people in all parts of the world still have unaddressed health needs; and noted that remaining healthy is challenging for many people, particularly the poor and people in vulnerable situations, and finding it ethically, politically socially and economically unacceptable that inequity in health and disparities in health outcomes persist.

The Declaration affirms that strengthening primary health care (PHC) is the most inclusive, effective and efficient approach to enhance people's physical and mental health, as well as social wellbeing, and that PHC is a cornerstone of a sustainable health system for achieving universal health coverage (UHC) and health-related Sustainable Development Goals.

Signatories strongly affirmed their commitment to the fundamental right of every human being to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without distinction of any kind and reaffirmed their commitment to all the values and principles of the Declaration of Alma Ata, particularly to justice and solidarity, underlining the importance of health for peace, security and socioeconomic development, and their interdependence.

They committed to:

- Making bold political choices for health across all sectors.
- Building sustainable primary health care.
- Empowering individuals and communities.
- Aligning stakeholder support to national policies, strategies and plans.

What does the Declaration of Astana mean for nurses and midwives? Nurses and midwives have always been at the forefront of delivering primary health care services. Forty years after the Declaration of Alma Ata placing primary importance on primary health care to achieve "health for all" the focus of most health systems remains on acute in hospital care. Will anything change in the next forty years? The global emphasis on universal health coverage and the sustainable development goals suggest it will. Nurses and midwives and their representative associations need to be proactively engaged in formulating national plans for how the commitment to primary health care will be implemented.



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## Consultation forums in the Bahamas



The Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas (NACB) has commenced a series of forums to identify issues of concern to nurses and midwives in preparation for a review of the Bahamas National Nursing Strategy. The first workshop in this proactive initiative was held in Nassau on Tuesday 2 October 2018. The workshop was attended by 32 nurses and midwives and addressed six key priority areas: Clinical practice; Education; Workforce sustainability; Research and information technology; Leadership and governance; and Advocacy.

Working in small groups, a vision statement was developed for each of the priority areas. To focus the discussion, two questions were generated for each area. The questions were developed from previous consultations by the NACB to identify issues of concern to nurses and midwives in the country. The small groups identified three key strategies to help resolve the issues identified in the questions. These strategies were then shared in plenary, and modified and refined with input from the larger group.

### VISION STATEMENTS

#### Clinical Practice

By 2025, clinical nursing practice in the Bahamas will be transformed by embracing and integrating education, research, innovation, and technology for best practice in a people centered environment.

#### Education

By 2025, nursing in the Bahamas will have educational opportunities that are high quality, innovative, accessible, sustainable, and effectively integrate theory with practice.

#### Workforce sustainability

By 2025, the attraction of being a nurse in the Bahamas will be so compelling that it will retain a sustainable workforce through promoting employee satisfaction, advancement, and personal development.

#### Research and information technology

By 2025, nursing services in the Bahamas will provide innovative, evidence based quality care through the integration and implementation of research and information technology.

#### Leadership and governance

By 2025, nursing in the Bahamas will be transformed through a collaborative regulatory environment guided by innovative, empowered, and culturally competent leadership.

#### Advocacy

By 2025, nurses will be key advocates as stakeholders in developing and implementing national policies toward achieving optimal health and wellbeing for the people of the Bahamas.



Research and IT

Clinical practice



Leadership and governance



Advocacy



Workforce sustainability



Education

Other priority areas will be addressed in further forums, and the findings of each forum will be validated by exposure to the wider nursing and midwifery workforce in the Bahamas. The information will provide the NACB executive with a strong and informed position going into negotiations for the review of the National Nursing Strategy.