

What is GAGNM?

The Global Advisory Group on Nursing and Midwifery (GAGNM) is a multidisciplinary group of professionals who provide the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) with policy advice on strengthening nursing and midwifery within the context of WHO's programmes and priorities.

Its terms of reference include:

- Providing policy advice to the DG on how nursing and midwifery services can optimize the responsiveness of health systems to people's needs.
- Advising the DG on strengthening the nursing and midwifery contribution to global health and what is needed to make such contributions possible.
- Advising on long term strategic plans for nursing and midwifery within WHO.
- Supporting the development and use of nursing and midwifery outcome indicators globally.
- Collaborating in monitoring progress of nursing and midwifery contributions to the health agenda, particularly WHO's programmes and priorities.

When and why was GAGNM created?

The Global Advisory Group on Nursing & Midwifery was established during the World Health Assembly (WHA) of May 1992 by Resolution WHA45.5.

The Group was created in recognition of the vital role nurses and midwives play in health care, and in response to worldwide concerns about having sufficient nursing and midwifery services available to meet the health needs of individual and communities. Given their concerns, WHO Member States recommended that the WHO Director-General "establish a multidisciplinary advisory group on nursing and midwifery services" that would suggest ways that individual countries could support nursing and midwifery as key forces in achieving health for all.

Why is the GAGNM important for world health?

For many years, ministers of health and other government leaders have recognized that nursing and midwifery services are vital to the health of their people. Indeed, up to 80% of health services in hospitals and communities are provided by nursing and midwifery personnel. This knowledge has resulted in several WHA Resolutions addressing nursing and midwifery services, since the lack of these services means that many people have no access to health promotion and health care when needed and therefore suffer needless illness or even premature death.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), WHO priorities and programme needs, and the growing human resource crisis, particularly the nursing and midwifery shortages, point to the need for sound policy advice and action.



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Examples of positive actions resulting from GAGNM recommendations include:

- Development, launch, and monitoring of progress on the Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery Services 2002-2008.
- Creation of Nursing and Midwifery Office at the WHO Headquarters.

- Support of the Islamabad Declaration on Nursing and Midwifery 2007.
- Increasing number of countries with human resource plans addressing nursing and midwifery.
- WHA Resolutions on strengthening nursing and midwifery services that demonstrate Member States' support for the value of these services.



Who are the members of GAGNM?

Members include leaders in nursing and midwifery along with a multidisciplinary of health experts and senior health policy makers from ministries of health.

Individuals are nominated by the WHO regions throughout the world, selected by an organization - wide WHO panel chaired by the Chief Scientist for Nursing and Midwifery in Geneva, and appointed by the WHO Director General to serve for 3 years each term.

Chair: Prof. Rachel Gumbi, WHO Regional Office for Africa (AFRO)

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Abdoulaye Diallo: Medical doctor, In-charge medical training in the West African Health Organization (WAHO).

Dorothy Elizabeth Namate: Registered Nurse-Midwife, PhD Education administration of higher learning, Working as Senior Consultant

Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Malawi.

WHO Regional Office for the Americas (AMRO)

Maricel Manfredi: PhD in Nursing, Consultant for the PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre for Mental Health Nursing at the University of Maryland, USA.

Bernardo Kliksberg: PhD, Economic Sciences and Administrative Sciences, Chief Adviser, UNDP Director for Latin-American and the Caribbean; New York.

WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO)

Rowaida Al Maaitah: PhD, International Health, Senior Member of the Upper Parliament, Jordan and consultant on Health and Social Development to Her Royal Highness Princess Muna El-Husseini.

Nabil M. Kronfol: Medical Doctor, MA Public Health, PhD Public Health, President and Founder of the Lebanese Health Care Management Association, Professor of Health Administration at the University of Balamand in Lebanon.

WHO Regional Office for Europe (EURO)

Lis Wagner: Registered Nurse, PhD in Public Health; Professor, research unit, Nursing, University of Southern Denmark.

WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO)

Dileep Kumar: Registered Nurse, Msc Nursing, Chief Nursing Officer, India and President of the Indian Nursing Council since the year 2000.

Viroj Tangcharoensathien: Medical doctor, PhD, Director, International Health Policy Programme at Mahidol University.

WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific (WPRO)

Eric Chan: Nursing, Psychology, PhD, Business Administration and Management, Principal Nursing Officer at the Hospital Authority in Hong Kong.

Pelenatete Stowers: Registered Nurse, Registered Midwife, post graduate nursing education, administration

and health Economics, Director of Nursing Services, Health Department, Samoa

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) are permanent observers to this group.

Technical officers from WHO, Regional Nursing and Midwifery Advisors from the WHO Regions, and the Secretariat of the WHO Collaborating Centres in Nursing and Midwifery Development are regular observers and contributors to the work of the GAGNM.

GAGNM Issues and Priorities for Strengthening Nursing and Midwifery:

- New Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery 2009 - 2015 for Human Resources for Health planning.
- Global Programme of Work for Strengthening Nursing and Midwifery Capacity to contribute to the achievement of the MDGs.
- Compendium of Primary Health Care Models
- Global Standards for Basic Nursing and Midwifery Education.
- Tutor/Faculty development to scale-up production of Nurses and Midwives.
- Fact Sheets on Nursing and Midwifery Contributions to the Achievement of the MDGs.

For further information about GAGNM please visit: http://www.who.int/hrh/nursing_midwifery/networks/en/ or contact:

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World Health Organization

**The Global Advisory Group On
Nursing & Midwifery
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