



A Message of Support from Judith Oulton, Chief Executive Officer, International Council of Nurses (ICN)

On behalf of the International Council of Nurses (ICN), I want to highlight our collaboration with the Stop TB Partnership and congratulate the Partnership for the efforts made in combating TB. At the same time, I wish to call attention to how much remains to be done and also to the critical role of nurses in fighting TB.

We know that nurses are at the heart of any effective system of TB control, and are often the first to identify and treat TB cases. However, there is a severe worldwide shortage of nurses, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, where TB has exploded.

Because of the vital role they play, nurses are at increased risk of acquiring TB themselves as a result of unsafe practices, inadequate standards or inadequate management and resources. Action is overdue. On World TB Day 2007, we ask governments everywhere to commit to correcting this unacceptable risk to nurses. ICN believes that a workplace policy and program for the prevention of occupational TB transmission must be in place in every health care institution.

ICN calls on governments everywhere to scale up training of nurses and create more favourable working conditions for them; to step up efforts to protect nurses who are caring for TB patients; and to invest in more effective TB control strategies.

We also call on all national nursing organizations to be vocal advocates for the DOTS strategy for TB control as outlined in the *Global Plan to Stop TB*.
www.stoptb.org/globalplan/

Let us make World TB Day 2007 an occasion to recognize that collaboration between governments and nurses is key to conquering this deadly scourge.

The **International Council of Nurses** is a federation of 129 national nurses associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses for nurses since 1899, ICN is the international voice of nursing and works to ensure quality care for all and sound health policies globally.

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