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Agenda item 4.4 – Plan of Action for Strengthening Information Systems for Health 2024–2030

Thank you for the opportunity to represent the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the over 28 million nurses worldwide. ICN acknowledges the critical role that robust health information systems play in advancing healthcare quality, ensuring patient privacy, and safeguarding data security. We fully support the Plan of Action for Strengthening Information Systems for Health 2024–2030 in the Americas region and recognize the importance of integrating digital health solutions to build resilient, equitable health systems.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the necessity for accurate, timely health data in early detection, response coordination, and public health planning. Nurses, as frontline healthcare providers, must be at the center of data collection and utilization efforts. Their direct experience with patient care and health system challenges provides invaluable insights that are essential for designing effective health interventions and ensuring data relevance to real-world needs.

ICN also supports the data collection for the upcoming **State of the World's Nursing** report, set to launch in 2025. We call on Member States in the Americas to actively contribute by gathering and sharing health workforce data with WHO. This data is vital for informed decision-making in workforce planning, particularly in the context of evolving healthcare demands.

Additionally, ICN recently submitted a comprehensive report to **WHO on the Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel**, highlighting critical issues such as health worker shortages and inadequate country reporting. The collection of detailed health workforce data—covering aspects such as cadre types, training levels, migration patterns, and geographic distribution—will be pivotal for addressing these challenges.

ICN remains committed to working alongside Member States and global partners to strengthen health information systems in the Americas, enhancing healthcare outcomes and building more sustainable, resilient health systems.