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## **Nurse Politicians from Around the World Connected Through New ICN Network**

**Geneva, Switzerland, 9 January 2007** – A new network launched by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) provides a space for nurses from all regions who are active in politics to meet, share expertise and strengthen the nursing contribution to policy at the highest levels. The ICN Nurse Politician Network ([www.icn.ch/npnnet.htm](http://www.icn.ch/npnnet.htm)) offers a vehicle to share knowledge and experience and exchange and test ideas – including a restricted page place for nurse politicians to meet. As well it provides new and experienced politicians with the opportunity to develop mentoring relationships.

For many years ICN has had a keen interest in developing and strengthening the nursing influence in health policy and encourages nurses to take an active part in policy making and the political decision-making processes. “I know from my own experience that if nurses do not accept the responsibility and enter the battle field to fight in favour of the social support systems that make the life of families and individuals better and benefits the whole society, others would eagerly and happily step in do so, sometimes for the worse,” declared Asta Möller, Chair of the new network. Möller has been a Member of the Icelandic Parliament since 1999 and currently chairs the Icelandic Delegation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The past few years have seen more nurses enter politics and today several serve as Ministers of State, members of parliament, and as provincial and state legislators as well as in positions in local government. The Network chair went on to say “Nurses’ holistic view of their role and responsibility in the health care system and their knowledge, based on research and experience is invaluable to the evolution of any health care system. For this knowledge to affect the provision of health care it must reach the policy makers, and health policy must reflect the knowledge generated by research and experience. It therefore calls for nurses’ active participation in political action and policy development, either as policy makers themselves or in cooperation with policy makers.”

In addition to being a vehicle of support to current politicians, the Network members are invited to:

- Share their expertise in policy and advocacy with global nursing.
- Assist ICN in identifying and monitoring political trends and issues affecting health care, nursing and society in general.
- Serve as a political opinion resource to ICN.
- Foster nursing innovation
- Promote the dissemination of nursing innovations to a wider audience
- Recognise the contribution nurses make to health systems
- Provide a searchable inventory
- Provide an environment for knowledge sharing

To learn more about this exciting new initiative or to join the Network please visit the website at [www.icn.ch/npnnet.htm](http://www.icn.ch/npnnet.htm). The Network is currently available in English only.

**Editor's Note:**

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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