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## **ICN Applauds the High Level Panel Recommendation for a UN Agency for Women**

### ***UN Coherence Panel makes bold recommendation addressing the urgent needs of women worldwide***

**Geneva, Switzerland, 10 November 2006** - The International Council of Nurses (ICN) and its member organisations in 129 countries applaud the recommendation made today by the UN Coherence Panel<sup>[1]</sup>, urging the formation of a single UN organization to fulfil the UN mandate of achieving gender equality and the advancement for women. The agency would be headed by an Under Secretary General and have a strong normative and advocacy role, combined with a targeted programming role in countries. “On behalf of the world’s 13 million nurses and nursing organisations worldwide, ICN enthusiastically welcomes the Panel’s recommendation,” declared Hiroko Minami, President of ICN. “We congratulate the Panel members on this bold move, so desperately needed to address the wide range of social, economic, political and cultural factors adversely affecting the health and well-being of millions of women and girls worldwide. We urge the General Assembly to move quickly to adopt this recommendation and to ensure robust funding for the agency, on a par with other UN agencies. ”

The Panel, composed of current and former heads of state and leaders of development agencies, was appointed early this year by Secretary-General Kofi Annan to respond to calls for greater coherence in the UN’s development portfolio. Following today’s announcement, the recommendations will be put to the UN General Assembly for discussion and voting by the member states. ICN urges nurses and their organisations everywhere to continue their effective advocacy for the establishment of the women’s agency by contacting their relevant Permanent Mission to the UN and national ministry, to ensure that countries of the world vote in support of the recommendation when the time comes.

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<sup>[1]</sup> UN High-Level Panel on System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance and the Environment. The 15 members include Shaukat Aziz (Co-Chair), Prime Minister, Pakistan; Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, United Kingdom; Luísa Dias Diogo (Co-Chair), Prime Minister, Mozambique; Mohamed T. El-Ashry, Egypt Senior Fellow, United Nations Foundation; Robert Greenhill, President of the Canadian International Development Agency, Canada; Ruth Jacoby, Director-General for Development Cooperation, Sweden; Ricardo Lagos Escobar, President of the Republic of Chile; Louis Michel, Belgium, European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid; Benjamin W. Mkapa, Former President, United Republic of Tanzania; Jean-Michel Severino, France, Director General, French Development Agency; Josette S. Shiner Under Secretary for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs, United States of America; Jens Stoltenberg, (Co-Chair), Prime Minister, Norway; Keizo Takemi, Member of the House of Councillors, Japan; Kemal Derviş, Turkey, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Lennart Båge, Sweden, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

**Editor's Note** The International Council of Nurses (ICN) 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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ICN/PR/06 #19