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The Director-General of the World Health Organization presents his compliments to the Governments of Member States and has the honour to transmit the report<sup>1</sup> of the Third Meeting of the Global Advisory Group on Nursing and Midwifery, held in Geneva from 28 to 30 November 1994.

The Director-General wishes to draw attention to some of the areas highlighted in the report where continued action is still urgently required:

- the need to continue to focus on management and leadership development for nurses;
- the need to focus on required regulations and legislation for the strengthening of nursing and midwifery;
- the need to re-examine nursing/midwifery practice and the roles of all categories of human resources for health in relation to the service needs of the country;
- the need for greater support to nursing/midwifery at country level so that service gaps at the community level can be overcome and appropriate quality health care provided;
- the development of nursing/midwifery action plans, and the need to link them to national health plans;
- the need for educational needs assessment and curriculum review for basic, post-basic and continuing education in order to answer the rapidly changing nursing/midwifery service needs of the country;
- the need for more support to collaborating centres by Member States.

The Global Advisory Group proposed that fora should be established at country and regional level to identify ways in which nursing/midwifery can best contribute to the policy orientation of WHO's Ninth General Programme of Work, and in particular to ensuring equitable access to health services, promoting and protecting health, and preventing and controlling specific health problems.

The Director-General would also like to draw the attention of Member States to specific recommendations of the Global Advisory Group. These were that:

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<sup>1</sup> Document WHO/HRH/NUR/95.1, available in English only.

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1. Member States be urged to develop nursing/midwifery country profiles that will assist them, WHO and other agencies in the identification of gaps in service provision.
2. Member States be urged to include nurses/midwives in their official delegations to the World Health Assembly and Regional Committees.
3. WHO should support the development of specific indicators to reflect the progress of nursing/midwifery at all levels of service.

The Director-General avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Governments of Member States the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 27 April 1995