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**NEWS RELEASE**



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### **ANA Commends UN Resolution on the Creation of a UN Women's Agency**

**SILVER SPRING, MD** – American Nurses Association (ANA) is gratified to see the UN General Assembly's decision to create a new United Nations (UN) Agency for Women. The ANA has been a vocal advocate for the creation of an agency dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women globally. ANA would also like to acknowledge the hard work and support of its constituent member associations and organizational affiliates who joined with ANA to demand this crucial organization.

More than 70 percent of the world's 1.3 billion poor are women; maternal mortality rates have not improved for almost two decades; and virtually all maternal deaths (99 percent) occur in developing countries. Fundamental gender inequalities fuel the HIV/AIDS epidemic, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where women and girls now make up over 60 percent of those living with HIV and 76 percent of those in the 15-24 years old group.

ANA is proud to have engaged in this issue which will have international importance with repercussions for generations to come. As powerful advocates for the rights and health of women and girls, nurses have a responsibility to ensure that global health will be affected in a positive way for all people, regardless of gender.

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*The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 2.9 million registered nurses through its constituent member nurses associations, its organizational affiliates, and its workforce advocacy affiliate, the Center for American Nurses. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.*