

Dear President, Board of Directors, Colleagues and Friends.

I am sorry that I am unable to be with you at the closing ceremony of the conference but I do wish to express my gratitude to you all.

I have been very impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of all the people I have met and in particular the professionalism of the nurses here in Cyprus. I am delighted to see the association reach out and work so well with the differing organisations represented here. It is true that these organisations have differing objectives but here in Cyprus you recognize this and use this to your advantage. Working as one and focusing on issues of importance, drawing on your various perspectives and setting an agreed direction for solutions is a sign of great maturity and determination to have true influence. This collaboration, speaking with one voice, is extremely important as it makes our profession strong.

I also wish to thank you for the opportunity to sample your culture, your music and your food – all has been excellent. However it is the warmth of the people of the nurses that I will treasure most.

David Benton

Chief Executive Officer

International Council of Nurses (ICN)