

# PRESS RELEASE

## **Nursing Now! celebrates Elizabeth Iro's appointment as Chief Nurse for the WHO**

The Nursing Now! campaign congratulates Mrs Elizabeth Iro on her appointment as the new Chief Nurse for the World Health Organization (WHO), announced today (12 October 2017) by WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at the Sixty-Eighth Session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific.

Lord Nigel Crisp KCB, Chair of *Nursing Now!* said:

“This appointment is a great boost for nursing and for everyone working to improve health across the world. Those of us who are optimistic about the future of global health know that we must recognise the value of nursing. Following this important milestone, the Nursing Now! campaign looks forward to supporting both Dr Tedros and Mrs Iro to raise the status and profile of nursing.”

The Nursing Now! campaign, in association with the WHO and the International Council of Nurses, will launch in January 2018, to raise the status and profile of nursing globally. In preparation for launch, the campaign secured a commitment from Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to appoint a senior nurse to the WHO.

**ENDS**

### **Notes to editors**

- Nursing Now! as a programme of the Burdett Trust for Nursing, is a three year global campaign, launching in January 2018
- the campaign will build on nurses' unique position as the health professionals who are at the heart of every health system, provide continuity of care for their patients and are part of their local community. We recognise that nurses are half the health workforce and that Universal Health Coverage won't be achieved unless nursing is strengthened.
- Lord Nigel Crisp KCB is acting as Executive Chair of the campaign prior to launch. Lord Crisp is an independent crossbench member of the UK House of Lords where he co-chairs the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Health. He was Chief Executive of the NHS in England from 2000-2006 he now works and writes extensively on global health with a focus on Africa. His main current interests are global health partnerships, health creation and nursing.