Author’s response to reviews

Title: Are the Global Strategic Directions for Strengthening Nursing and Midwifery 2016–2020 being implemented at country level? Findings from a cross-sectional analysis

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We thank the reviewers for their useful comments and have made improvements to the manuscript as detailed below.

Reviewer #1
Thank you for your comments. In the discussion (pg 13) and conclusion (para 3 on pg 15) sections, we have now added texts to reinforce the policy implications for nurses in countries. Going forward, we will consider for publication, an additional paper elaborating in greater detail, how nurses at country level will be affected and how they can contribute.

Reviewer #2
Thank you for your comments. Indeed, the paper in addition to its message on ensuring a culture of accountability, also serves as a baseline measure for how much progress has been made in implementing the SDNM interventions at country level in itself. As you stated, the use of a three-point scale does reduce the sensitivity and we have acknowledged this as one of the weakness inherent in the data collection approach. Throughout the paper, we have strengthened the
linkages between our findings and the achievement of UHC/SDGs and highlighted the terms more explicitly where relevant.