



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE
Advancing Hospice & Palliative Care Worldwide

Meeting: Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly (A69/1)

Agenda Item: 12.6 Public health dimension of the world drug problem including in the context of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem.

Organisation: International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care IAHPC

Statement:

Honourable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care, a non-governmental organisation that represents tens of thousands of healthcare providers, patients, and families needing support through life limiting illnesses. Most of our members live and work in resource challenged countries, where the controlled medicines the WHO considers essential for the relief of pain and symptoms are largely unavailable, inaccessible, and unaffordable.

IAHPC welcomes the Outcome Document approved by the UN family last month because of its strong public health focus, emphasis on human rights, foundation in the 2030 Agenda, and practical stand-alone section on how governments can improve access to controlled medicines. Effective implementation of the WHA67 resolution on palliative care depends on adequate access to medicines such as morphine and methadone, largely inaccessible in more than 80% of the world.

The Outcome Document recommendations call for a trans-disciplinary, multisectoral approach to improving access. This will require member states to include civil society — physicians, pharmacists, nurses, patients, and families — in their implementation strategies. In fact, states will be unable to report progress at the 2019 UNGASS without such synergistic collaborations.

This new governance approach to the world drug problem requires all stakeholders to “play well with others” — to step out of ideological and professional comfort zones, and learn to listen to and respect one another, *particularly* in the face of deep ideological and cultural differences.

Palliative care exemplifies the inter-disciplinary and multisectoral approach needed to help governments overcome the fragmentation and silo mentality that has historically blocked access to controlled medicines in so many countries. IAHPC is standing by to provide technical assistance to states that wish to implement the UNGASS recommendations and report success in 2019.

I thank you.

5535 Memorial Drive Suite F – PMB 509 · Houston, TX 77007, USA
PH (936) 321-9846 FAX (713) 589-3657
Toll Free (866) 374-2472

www.hospicecare.com