

## Progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Report by the Secretariat

Thank you Chair. The International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care and the Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance welcome the Report's focus on the importance of Universal Health Coverage. We are concerned, however, that at no point does the report define 'Universal Health Coverage as including the 'full spectrum of essential, quality health services from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care'.

This is particularly important as there are currently no indicators to measure progress in essential palliative care services within the UHC or SDG agenda, and none stipulated in the Report. We request the WHA to recognise, explore and take steps to address the absence of indicators and planning on services across all the full spectrum of essential health services, including palliative care for persons of all ages. We welcome the Report's focus on equity and remind the World Health Assembly and member states that access to palliative care is one of the most inequitable health situations in the world. 75% of the world's population have inadequate access to essential medicines for the control of severe pain and less than 14% of those who need it can access community based or hospital palliative care services.

Many are still left behind in this key public health domain. Evidence from Low Income Countries shows that implementing community based palliative through government partnerships with civil society organisations, is a best buy. It can keep families from falling into extreme poverty through catastrophic out of pocket health costs that require them to sell land, cattle, and other property; prevent school dropout, allow women and girls to return to school and the workforce, and improve overall health outcomes.

To this end, IAHPC and WHPCA request that member states include palliative care for all ages, from neonates to older persons, in their reports to the High Level Forum this summer.

Finally, we are also concerned that the Secretariat's Report mentions older persons ONLY under the heading Maternal and Child Health Nutrition and generally ignores the health of older persons altogether. Supporting the health and wellbeing of growing populations of older persons is critical for member states to achieve the SDGs. I thank you.