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Prof. Lukas Radbruch  
Chair, Board of Directors  
International Association for Hospice &  
Palliative Care  
5535 Memorial Drive Suite F – 509  
Houston, TX 77007-8023  
Etats-Uni d'Amérique

14 November 2018

Dear Professor Radbruch,

Thank you for your letter of 9 November 2018 that was co-signed by Ms Liliana De Lima, Executive Director and Dr Katherine Pettus, Advocacy Officer about the official relationship of the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC) with the World Health Organization (WHO).

We are pleased about the long standing partnership between IAHPC and WHO and would like to clarify that the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD) will assess five fentanyl analogues, four synthetic cannabinoids, two medicines (tramadol and pregabalin) and several cannabis and cannabis related substances under international control. For this reason the committee put together by WHO has experts from different areas, including three physicians, two psychiatrists and one anesthesiologist with expertise in pain management.

As you are aware, although the priority focus of ECDD is to assess dependence, abuse and harm to health of psychoactive substances, the committee takes into strong consideration potential barriers to access that could be caused by international control in the case of medicines e.g. ketamine and tramadol. I would like to thank you for participating in the open session of the committee, where your organization and others made a strong case for not creating additional barriers to access to Tramadol and other medicines.

Let me reassure you that WHO remains strongly committed to ensuring people have access to controlled medicines, including opioids analgesics to reduce their pain and suffering. For follow up, please feel free to contact my Assistant Director-General for Access to Medicines, Vaccines and Health Products, Dr Mariangela Simao (simaom@who.int).

Yours sincerely,

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus  
Director-General