

**Statement of IAHPC to CND Reconvened Session  
December 5, 2018  
Preparation for High Level Segment of CND 2019**

Dear Mme. Chair, dear delegates,

IAHPC is honored to represent the voice of a specific affected population of providers and patients who lack adequate access to the essential palliative care medicines listed in the schedules of the international drug control conventions. We have just participated in an intergovernmental meeting of experts on the US opioid overdose crisis, a severe problem affecting persons who use drugs non-medically in some high-income countries. Systematic efforts to tackle the problem, which is largely confined to North America, are necessary, and must include the voices of affected populations.

These systematic efforts must not, however, undermine member states' efforts, in partnership with WHO, INCB, UNODC, and civil society, to improve availability of opioids for medical use in low and middle income countries already facing a crisis of under provision of pain medication. It happens due to lack of education of health professionals and unduly restrictive drug control policies, not aligned with the right to health.

As we prepare for the High-Level Segment in 2019, IAHPC requests member states to take note of the progress made on this issue during the UNGASS preparatory period, and the resulting Outcome Document. The 2009 Declaration missed the point that more than 70% of the world's people have no or low access to pain medications when they are needed for traumatic injury, surgery, obstetrics, opioid agonist treatment, and palliative care.

Member states that approved the UNGASS Outcome Document went beyond the tick box approach of supply control and demand reduction, and committed to relieving this preventable suffering by revising regulatory frameworks to improve rational access to internationally controlled essential medicines.

The UNGASS process and issues of inadequate access to pain medicines invited member states to think outside the 2009 box, align with Agenda 2030 and the Astana Declaration. Member states were also invited to include this global public health crisis, which has its roots in unbalanced drug control policies, in the agenda of all future work. As an ECOSOC accredited organization in official relations with WHO, IAHPC is committed to help you do that.

Meeting the twin challenges of the US overdose epidemic, and the global "underdose" epidemic affecting more than 70% of countries will require all stakeholders to come to the table. This should produce more dynamic dialogue between member states, affected populations, and the pharmaceutical sector. They are, of course an integral part of the supply chain, but are not usually invited to international discussions. Thank you.