



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

June 19, 2018

Dear Colleagues

Please see attached the IAHPC response to the Zero Draft of the Political Declaration. We understand that the WHO Secretariat has traditionally understood the word “control” to include “palliation” but disagree with this interpretation, and would like to see explicit recognition of the need to include the words “palliation” and “palliative care,” as per the WHA Resolution 67/19, the Montevideo Roadmap and the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013-2020.

We note that the Merriam Webster defines control (verb) as “to reduce the incidence or severity of especially to innocuous levels, ie *control* a disease,” and the OED as “to limit the level, intensity, or numbers of.” We argue that subsuming palliative care under the category of “control” in the NCDs narrative, is inaccurate and damaging to effective policy development, fulfilment of human rights obligations, and other international law commitments.

We realise that this is a big “ask” but hope that partners will dialogue with us about this, if not support outright.

Please contact me, Katherine Pettus kpettus@iahpc.com with comments or to sign on to the IAHPC statement. We will also be sending to palliative care colleagues in Uruguay and the Uruguay and Italian missions to solicit their support.

Sincerely,

Profesor Lukas Radbruch
Chair

Roberto Wenk, MD
Past - Chair

Liliana De Lima, MHA
Executive Director

Katherine Pettus, PhD
Advocacy Officer