



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

| June 21, 2018

IAHPC Response to the zero draft of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

Contents: Background and track changes in enumerated paras. of zero draft text.

Background We understand that the WHO Secretariat has traditionally understood the word “control” re NCDs strategy to include “palliation.” IAHPC respectfully disagrees with this interpretation, and would like to see explicit recognition of the need to include the words “palliation” and “palliative care,” in the Outcome Document 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.”

It is IAHPCs position 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.

| Suggestions in track changes to zero draft text, per numbered paragraph.

Title: **Political Declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention, control, and palliation of non-communicable diseases**

Chapeau 1.

We, Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments, assembled at the United Nations on 27th September 2018 to undertake a comprehensive review of the challenges and opportunities to implement our existing commitments for the prevention, control, and palliation of NCDs, which constitute a **critical component to achieve Universal Health**

Coverage and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals; (OP1 of 72/274, P2 and P26 of 70/1)

PP3. Acknowledge the remarkable progress achieved by some countries in the implementation of their commitments made in 2011 and 2014 for the prevention, control, and palliation ...

PP10. Reaffirm the primary role and responsibility of Governments in responding to the challenge of non-communicable diseases by developing national responses for their prevention, control, and palliation

PP11. Acknowledge that other stakeholders also share responsibility and can contribute in creating a conducive environment to prevent, control, and palliate non-communicable diseases, and recognize the need to bring together civil society and the private sector to mobilize all available resources to the implementation of national responses for the prevention, control, and palliation of non-communicable diseases; (P39 of 70/1)

OP1. Strengthen our commitment as Heads of State and Government to exercise a strategic leadership for the prevention, control, and palliation of NCDs

OP2. Scale up the implementation of the commitments made in 2011 and 2014 for the prevention, control, and palliation of NCDs as part of the ambitious national responses to the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by integrating, as appropriate, action on the prevention, control, and palliation of non-communicable diseases and promotion of mental health and well-being into national responses.

OP3. According to country-led prioritization integrate the set of cost-effective affordable and evidence based interventions for the prevention, control, and palliation of noncommunicable diseases;

OP4. Establish or strengthen national multi-stakeholder dialogue mechanisms with accountability for the implementation of the national multisectoral action plan for the prevention, control, and palliation of non-communicable diseases to attain the national targets

OP5. Share information with global and regional partners on experiences, including successes and challenges related to the implementation of national policies and programmes to prevent, control, and palliate non-communicable diseases, in order to build the global evidence base on best practices and lessons learned to promote informed action;

OP7. Scale up efforts to use information and communications technologies, including e-health and m-health and other innovative solutions as well as promote public-private partnership to accelerate action towards the prevention, control, and palliation of non-communicable diseases;

OP8: Scale up the implementation of the commitments made in 2011 and 2014 to reduce tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diets and physical inactivity taking into account, as appropriate, recommended interventions for the prevention, control, and palliation of non-communicable diseases;

OP13. Strengthen and reorient health systems including services for the prevention, control, and palliation of non-communicable diseases

OP16. Promote meaningful civil society engagement to encourage governments to develop ambitious national responses for the prevention, control, and palliation of noncommunicable diseases,

(e) Contribute to efforts to improve access to and affordability of medicines, including internationally controlled essential medicines, and medical technologies in the prevention, control, and palliation of non-communicable diseases

OP19. Promote transparency and accountability mechanisms for the prevention, control, and palliation of NCDs and promoting mental health and well-being,

OP20. Enhance the provision and allocation of adequate, predictable and sustained resources for national responses to prevent, control, and palliate non-communicable diseases and promote mental health and well-being,

OP21. Call on WHO to continue to exercise its leadership as the directing and coordinating authority on international health and contribute to Member States efforts to prevent, control, and palliate non-communicable diseases

OP22. Call further on WHO to continue to work towards promoting and monitoring enhanced global action to prevent, control, and palliate NCDs

OP24. We request the Secretary-General, in collaboration with Member States, the World Health Organization and relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to submit to the General Assembly, by the end of 2024, for consideration by Member States, a report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present political declaration, in preparation for a comprehensive review, in 2025, of the progress achieved in the prevention, control, and palliation of non-communicable diseases and promotion of mental health and well-being.

IAHPC supports the submissions to the zero draft of the NCD Alliance, the Union of International Cancer Control, and the Worldwide Hospice and Palliative Care Alliance.