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International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care Inc.

Meeting:

144th session of the Executive Board
24 January - 1 February 2019

Agenda Item:

5.1 Proposed programme budget 2020–2021

Statement:

IAHPC is concerned that the budget focus is too focused on disease eradication, health emergencies, and redirecting resources to country level. This emphasis seems to preclude integration of palliative care into primary health care as per the commitments of Astana. We recommend that

- National budgets should strengthen health systems to allow for integration of palliative care. Not only does palliative care save money for health systems, and prevent financial harm to patients and families, it adds life to days. Health systems should not perpetuate the disease-centered, “rescue medicine” model that leaves millions behind in severe health related suffering each year.
- Given the new emphasis on devolving resources to countries, palliative care service delivery should be included on the WHO Country Officer’s priority lists and Country Collaboration Strategies. Regarding national budgets, IAHPC has requested our global membership to ask their ministries to inventory the number of palliative care providers in their countries, and assess issues with access to education and essential medicines, etc, and to draft budgets based on the calculations of the Lancet Commission Essential Package. IAHPC can help with this! We would also request member states to include palliative care experts in their national delegations for the World Health Assembly so they can report effectively on how this essential service is being implemented into their countries' public health services. We emphasise that this should include nursing homes and other closed settings, including prisons and refugee camps. Again, our global membership stand by to assist with normative and technical guidance.

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