

IAHPC

## Statement on Agenda Item 5.7.1 Access to Medicines and Vaccines

IAHPC thanks the Secretariat for the Report and references to controlled medicines. On Friday, Dr. Tedros announced new partnerships with WONCA, the World Medical Associations and pharmaceutical professions to fill the 18 million healthcare workforce gap. IAHPC was encouraged by this announcement, but we are asking the Secretariat through the Chair if that partnership includes training in the prescribing and dispensing of internationally controlled essential medicines such as morphine.

IAHPC participated in the Roadmap process. We have assured the Secretariat that IAHPC will continue to work with them on refining indicators in the context of balanced drug policies in order to follow recommendations of UNGASS2016, collaborating with WHO EMP division, Service Delivery and Safety, UNODC and INCB.

The following is a problematic sentence in the Report:

i. [WHO will provide] “Support for improved forecasting and quantification of controlled medicines to avoid over-stock and support for strengthened capacity of prescribers and dispensers to ensure the quality of service and minimize the risk of diversion.”

IAHPC and our members identifies stockouts and understock as the usual problems. Governments can remedy the problem of stockouts and understocking, which leave people in terrible suffering by ensuring a strong supply chain and training pharmacists, nurses and doctors, including medical officers to prescribe controlled medicines. IAHPC stands ready to assist the Secretariat and member states in this critical endeavour to strengthen health systems and the primary care workforce.