

Meeting: Seventy-second World Health Assembly (A72/1) Agenda Item: 11.7 Access to medicines and vaccines

IAHPC thanks the Secretariat and the WHA for the commitment in the Roadmap to “support countries in developing policies and regulations to ensure access, appropriate prescribing, dispensing and use of controlled medicines for the treatment of pain and palliative care while minimizing the risk of diversion and misuse.” We will work with our focal points in the medicines division, as well as the colleagues at the International Narcotics Control Board, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and our partners in civil society, to make this commitment a reality. Much still needs to be done, as more than 75% of the world’s population still has no access to these essential palliative care medicines on the WHO Model List, largely because of unduly restrictive drug policies and lack of appropriate professional education. The Report’s deliverable of “optimizing relevant legislation and support for strengthening the capacity of prescribers and dispensers to ensure access and quality of service and minimize the risk of diversion and misuse,” goes to the heart of the twin problems of lack of access and non-medical use. IAHPC and our partners will do our utmost to support member states in this training and capacity building of health professionals to implement the Roadmap and improve access to generic oral morphine for the relief of severe pain and palliative care.