



IAHPC Statement for CND Intersessional June 24, 2019.

The International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care is a non-governmental organization in consultative status with ECOSOC and a non-state actor in official relations with the World Health Organisation. We are pleased to report to you that we have been collaborating actively with our membership who provide services to patients in all your countries, with academia, the INCB, UNODC, CICAD, and the World Health Organisation to improve availability and access to internationally controlled essential medicines for the relief of pain and symptoms. We do this through educational workshops that convene all stakeholders, including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, competent authorities, and policymakers, to work on constructive strategies in the context of balanced drug policies. Balanced drug policies are those that follow the Single Convention mandate to allow adequate access to substances containing “narcotic drugs” for medical use, while preventing diversion and non-medical use. Countries with adequate access to internationally controlled essential medicines for the relief of severe pain and symptoms, *and* low rates of non-medical use, can claim to have balanced drug policies.

According to INCB, **80%** of the world population, mainly in low- and lower middle-income countries, consume only **14%** of the morphine globally available for pain management, although morphine is the most affordable of all the opioids. This, of course, reduces its attractiveness to industry, making adequate government procurement of morphine, often in collaboration with regional partners to reduce costs, a necessity. According to former INCB President Sumyai, “if morphine availability *increased* in low- and middle-income countries, it would significantly reduce the gap between the need for pain treatment and its accessibility in low- and middle-income countries.”. Our experts look forward to assisting the WHO in the work of updating the 2011 *Ensuring Balance* Guidelines to reduce this gap, and to working with all stakeholders in your countries to improve access for all patients in need. I thank you.