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# International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care Inc.

**Meeting:**

Executive Board 146

**Agenda Item:**

6. Primary health care

**Statement:**

Thank you Chair, ladies and gentlemen, honorable delegates. I am Dr. Natalia Arias, a Colombian/Spanish physician and PhD researcher. The Astana Declaration on Primary Care, which updates the historic Alma Ata Declaration includes palliative care as an essential component of primary health care. The improvement of global access to palliative care and essential palliative care medicines on the WHO Model List is crucial for strengthening health systems and transforming the PHC vision into action to meet the Triple Billion Targets. Specialized services for acute care are UNprepared to respond to the exponentially increasing population level needs for palliative care. IAHPC urges member states to integrate palliative care into primary health care by building the capacity of their workforce to meet the currently UNTreated suffering of over 26 million people globally. Several member states are already piloting programs and conducting research on such integration with the assistance of WHO. Monitoring of the efforts committed to achieving these objective requires the development of valid indicators. Member states can begin by assessing implementation of mechanisms for the early identification of patients in need of palliative care to assure that no one is left behind and those in need are identified in a timely fashion. As always, IAHPC stands ready to cooperate with the Secretariat on this critical normative and technical task.

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