



**Item 6. Follow-up to the implementation at the national, regional and international levels of all commitments, as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of 2019, to address and counter the world drug problem (continued)**

The International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care, global membership organization of palliative care experts, has been working with civil society, national competent authorities, and government officials at all levels of the multilateral system to raise awareness, and remove barriers to access to internationally controlled palliative care essential medicines.

As the INCB has emphasized, the main barriers to adequate access to medications controlled under the conventions are lack of awareness and training of health workforces, and weak supply chains. Together we can solve these problems! Member states can enlist civil society experts to train health workforces and assist with the formulation of procurement policies. In several East African countries I work with, the palliative care associations collaborate with Narcotics Police and hospices to strengthen supply chains to ensure appropriate procurement and dispensing while preventing diversion and misuse. Medicines controlled under the international drug conventions are identified as *essential medicines* on the WHO Model List. This means they serve the public health needs of the population and must be accessible through the public system. IAHPHC is standing by to assist member states to implement their commitments as reflected in the Ministerial Declaration. We are at your disposal during the intersessional period. I thank you.