



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE
Advancing Hospice & Palliative Care Worldwide

September 25, 2020

Mme Helen Clark
Mme Ellen Sirleaf Johnson

Your Excellencies, Co-Chairs of the Independent Panel

We write as Chairman of the Board and Executive Director of the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care, a global membership organization of palliative care providers that is a Non-State Actor in Official Relations with the WHO and a Non-Governmental Organization in Consultative Status with ECOSOC.

The purpose of this letter is to request that your Report to EB SS5 address the need for member states to redouble their efforts to integrate palliative care into their national pandemic response and preparedness plans per WHA73/1 OP.7.1. The WHO [Guidance](#) on Clinical Management of COVID19 now includes programmatic recommendations and tools for health system planners. See also this [call](#) from the President of the International Narcotics Control Board to extend palliative care during and after COVID-19 pandemic.

The IAHPC global network of practitioners, including pharmacists, health systems experts, and palliative care providers are recognized leaders in their countries and will collaborate with their governments in their planning to integrate palliative care into their health systems.

Recommendations to UN member states

- Strengthen palliative care (PC) services and integrate them into health systems, including with telemedicine, to increase coping capacity and resilience for this and future pandemics, *and reduce health related suffering of impacted populations;*
- Continue delivering essential healthcare services, including PC, a core component of UHC, to maintain and sustain the health of all, *emphasizing the ethical imperatives of equity and non-abandonment;*
- Adopt the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) [directive](#) to maintain uninterrupted access to opioid analgesics and controlled medicines by *simplifying export, transport, and delivery procedures;*
- Adapt and adopt the cost-effective Essential Package of PC included in Appendix 2 of the WHO Guidance on Clinical Management of COVID-19 ; This will facilitate:
 - Upskilling of health workers with appropriate triaging capability to respond to care within the pandemic context;
 - Adequate access to necessary equipment, and medicines;
- Engage in international collective actions to promote the development and exchange of global public goods to safeguard timely PC and pain relief for life-threatening and life-limiting health conditions and end-of-life care;
- Ensure meaningful civil society engagement and public participation to guide priority setting and guarantee prevention, treatment, and PC for all.



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Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have. We look forward to participating in the WHO EBSS55, if only virtually.

Respectfully.

Professor Lukas Radbruch
Chair

Liliana De Lima, MHA
Executive Director