



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

August 27, 2020

Statement of NSA in Official Relations re Agenda Item 18 WPRO Meeting

On behalf of our membership in the WPRO region, the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care ([IAHPC](#)) would like to thank the WPRO regional member states of the World Health Assembly for adopting the WHO Policy Brief [Preventing and managing COVID-19 across long-term care services](#) and for endorsing the [proposal for a Decade of Healthy Ageing](#), which includes recommendations to member states to integrate palliative care for older persons into national health systems.

We also thank the WHO for supporting the [Joint Statement](#) on access to internationally controlled medicines during COVID-19 pandemic issued in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) on August 14, 2020. The statement cited the ethical imperative for member states to ensure that all people in all countries of the world and particularly in the WPRO region, can access essential medicines during the pandemic.

IAHPC works closely with our individual and institutional members in the region, including Palliative Care Australia, the Society for the Promotion of Hospice Care in Hong Kong, Hospis Malaysia, the Mongolian Palliative Care Society, the Singapore Hospice Council, New Zealand Harbor Hospice, the Philippine Society of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, and Ho Chi Minh City Cancer Hospital among many others, to promote evidence-based advocacy for palliative care for patients of all ages experiencing serious health related suffering. We also advocate at the Open-Ended Working Group on Aging at the United Nations and are grateful to the Philippines Human Rights Commission.

The IAHPC is a non-state actor in official relations with the WHO, and an NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC. Our vision is a world free from health-related suffering, and our mission is to serve as a global platform to inspire, inform and empower individuals, governments, and organizations to increase access and optimize the practice of palliative care.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce the Regional Committee to several tools developed by IAHPC in collaboration with the Lancet Commission on Pain and Palliative Care, including the [Report](#) of the Commission, the [Global Database](#) on Serious Health Related Suffering. These tools allow member states to estimate their needs for opioid analgesics and other palliative care medicines, and to develop budgets with the Essential Package (EP), contained in this Report [summary](#). A modified version of the EP was published as Appendix 3 of the updated [WHO Temporary Guidance on COVID-19 Management](#).

We thank you and look forward to assisting member states with implementation of the various UN Organization directives and resolution on request.