



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

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Oral Statement CND Reconvened Session 64 IAHP

Thank you Madame Chair. The International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC) welcomes this opportunity to participate in the reconvened session and draws the attention of delegations to the ongoing crisis in access to medicines controlled under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the Convention on Psychotropics. We thank the INCB, WHO, and UNODC for the Joint Statement calling on governments to facilitate access to medicines containing controlled substances in emergency settings, including during pandemics and the increasing number of climate-related disasters on Access to Controlled Medicines, published in August this year.

IAHPC's members in Lower Middle-Income Countries, and even in some higher income countries have reported shortages and stockouts of these medicines that are essential for palliative care, pain relief, the treatment of mental health disorders, surgery, and obstetrics, among other things. Already fragile supply chains in most countries have been disrupted or blocked entirely during the ongoing pandemic, and the IAHPC supports the WHO and UNODC in calling for increased local manufacturing, particularly of generic oral morphine.

There are successful examples of this in Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Kerala and other sites that report no diversion or non-medical use of this government subsidized medicine over the long term. The World Drug Report data showing negligible seizures of pharmaceutical morphine in 2020 corroborates reporting from organizations and district authorities on the ground at the sites.

The IAHPC urges member states to work with professional organizations of palliative care practitioners, surgery and anesthesia providers, and substance use disorder clinics, as well as National Competent Authorities and health ministries to ensure resilient supply chains fit for pandemic preparedness and response including routine health system needs. I thank you.