



31 August 2022

Statement on [agenda item 17 \(D\)](#) Implementation of the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in the WHO European Region 2016–2025: Progress report

The IAHPC and our co-signatories welcome the inclusion of palliative care in the Action Plan, and its recognition of the need to continue to improve services. We also welcome recognition that palliative care services suffered major disruption because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We argue that COVID-19 and conflict in the Region have increased the need for palliative care directly and delayed access to preventive and diagnostic services for people suffering from NCDs.

We are pleased to note that WHO Europe has supported member States to improve palliative care services, as part of [United Action for Cancer](#). We urge member states to take action to improve palliative care for all people suffering from NCDs through education of their health workforce in basic palliative care and prescribing of internationally controlled medicines, and to improve access to those medicines, which are included in the WHO Model List, Section 2.

We further urge member states to engage in mutually beneficial relationships under the UN principle of common and shared responsibility, with traditional partners in lower- and middle-income countries, to improve access and availability of medicines for the treatment of pain, palliative care, substance use disorder, and other conditions.

The IAHPC, which is a global non-profit membership organization of palliative care experts and academic institutions, recommends that all member states procure [the Essential Package of palliative care services and medicines](#) for the treatment and care of persons with NCDs. Global health economists prepared this Essential Package, which is included in several WHO publications, using a sliding scale for countries of all income levels.

IAHPC's expert members in all the EURO region countries stand ready to partner with member states to accelerate uptake of basic health worker education, supply chain strengthening, regulatory strengthening to promote balanced policies, and access to affordable generics.

This statement is endorsed by



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

European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) and World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA).



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