Dr Tedros Adhanom  
World Health Organization  
Avenue Appia 20  
1211 Geneve 27  
Switzerland  

June 15 2017  

Dear Dr Tedros  

As representatives of organisations working on the advancement of palliative care worldwide, some of which are in official relations with WHO, we congratulate you on your election as Director General of the World Health Organization.  

We welcome your long-standing experience, deep knowledge and understanding of the African and global health context, and in particular your commitment to the achievement of Universal Health Coverage.  

As you may be aware, palliative care is one of the most inequitable areas of health care. It is estimated that 18 million people die with treatable pain and preventable suffering each year: 42% of WHO Member States have no hospice and palliative care services and 5.5 billion people live in countries with little or no access to essential medicines for the treatment of moderate to severe pain, terminal breathlessness, and mental health disorders.  

Our organisations enjoy good working collaboration with WHO departments and staff assigned to implementing the recommendations of Resolution WHA 67/19 Strengthening of palliative care as a component of comprehensive care throughout the life course, which was unanimously adopted in 2014. Nevertheless, much remains to be done to make its recommendations a reality for the millions of adults and children with palliative care needs and their families. Without implementation, this suffering will continue.  

As global and regional civil society leaders in the development of hospice and palliative care, we are committed to support WHO in advancing global health. We request your support in four key areas:  

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1. WHO/WHPCA (2014) Atlas of Palliative Care at the End of Life  
2. INCB Annual Report 2014
1. **Promote the adequate funding, implementation and monitoring of World Health Assembly Resolution 67/19 on palliative care.** Implementation of this resolution by Member States and the WHO Secretariat must be adequately funded by the relevant bodies.

2. **Advocate for urgent attention to palliative care as an essential health service within Universal Health Coverage.** WHO recognises palliative care as an essential component of Universal Health Coverage. UHC will not be achieved without palliative care and yet, rehabilitation and palliative care are often neglected as part of the UHC response. There is currently no recommended indicator for monitoring palliative care progress as part of UHC. We request WHO to prepare guidance supporting the inclusion of palliative care within UHC packages, including monitoring systems to measure and evaluate access to palliative care and pain treatment, particularly in low and middle income countries.

3. **In line with WHA 67/19, ensure that WHO includes palliative care in all relevant global health plans and their implementation.** In particular, we request recognition and action on palliative care for adults and children for all relevant NCDs, including cancer and dementia, as well as HIV, drug resistant tuberculosis and access to palliative care for marginalised populations, including refugees and migrants. We look forward to working with the Secretariat on the implementation of the palliative care components of the recently adopted cancer resolution and Global Action Plan on Dementia.

4. **Ensure WHO’s continued and increased focus and funded commitment on access to essential medicines, including to essential palliative care medications and paediatric formulations, necessary for the treatment of severe pain and terminal breathlessness.***

We reiterate our congratulations on your election and look forward to continue collaborating with WHO in the coming years to improve access to palliative care for all those who need it.

Yours sincerely

**Dr. Liliana de Lima,** Executive Director, International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (idelima@iahpc.com)

**Prof. Julia Downing,** Chief Executive, International Children’s Palliative Care Network (julia.downing@icpcn.org)

**Dr. Stephen Connor,** Executive Director, Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance (sconnor@thewhpca.org)

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*IAHPC Essential Medicines in Palliative Care List*
Co-signatories

**Paola Barbarino**, Chief Executive Officer, Alzheimer Disease International

**Kate Swaffer**, Chair, CEO and Co-Founder, Dementia Alliance International

**James Wells**, Chief Executive, EMMS International

**Prof. Richard Harding**, Herbert Dunhill Chair & Director of the Centre for Global Health Palliative Care, Kings College London

**Dr. Felicia Marie Knaul**, Chair, Lancet Commission on Global Access to Palliative Care and Pain Control; Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine; Founding President, Tómatelo a Pecho

**Drs Jim Cleary and Martha Maurer**, Pain and Policy Studies Group, University of Wisconsin, USA

**Brett Sutton and Joan Marston**, Co-chairs, PALCHASE Palliative Care in Humanitarian Aid Situations and Emergencies.

**Gillian Chowns**, Chair, Palliative Care Works

**Mike Mandelbaum**, Chief Executive, TB Alert

**Jo Ecclestone Ford**, Lead Trust Executive (UK and Africa) True Colours Trust, UK

**Rob Yates**, UHC Consulting

**Dr. Julie Torode**, Deputy CEO, Director of Advocacy and Networks, Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)

**Prof. Liz Grant**, Assistant Principal Global Health, Director - Global Health Academy, Co-Director - Compassion Initiative, Director - Zambia UK Health Workforce Alliance University of Edinburgh

**Pan-national hospice and palliative care organisations**

**Dr Emmanuel Luyirika**, Executive Director, The African Palliative Care Association

**Dr Ednin Hamzah**, Vice-Chair, Asia Pacific Hospice Palliative Care Network

**Dr Julie Ling**, Chief Executive, European Association of Palliative Care

**Dr Tania Pastrana**, President, Latin American Association for Palliative Care (ALCP)

**National and local hospice and palliative care organisations**

**Dr Maria Beatriz Thompson**, Anesthesiologist and President of Belize Hospice Palliative Care Foundation

**Sharon Baxter**, Executive Director, Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association

**Prof. Nezamuddin Ahmad**, Director, Centre for Palliative Care, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Bangladesh

**Dr Anica Jušić**, retired Professor of Neurology, and honorary President of Croatian Society for Palliative Medicine

**Irena Laska**, Executive Director, Family Health Care Association ("Mary Potter" PC Center), Albania
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Dr Ephrem Abathun, Executive Director, Hospice Ethiopia
Dr Liz Gwyther, Chief Executive Officer, The Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa
Eunice Garanganga, Director, Hospice and Palliative Care Association of Zimbabwe
Tracey Bleakley, Chief Executive, Hospice UK
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Dr Zipporah Ali, Executive Director, Kenya Hospices and Palliative Care Association
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Dr Maria Fidelis Manalo, Dr Rumalie A. Corvera, Dr Barbara Amity Flores, Dr Benedict M. Anover Philippine Society of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (PSHPM)
Dr Christian Ntizimira, Act. Executive Secretary, Rwanda Palliative Care and Hospice Organisation (RPCHO)
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Dr. Daniel Forte, President, Academia Nacional De Cuidados Paliativos, Brasil
Dr. Marisol Ahumada, President, Asociación Chilena para el estudio del Dolor y Cuidados Paliativos, Chile
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Dr. Kelly San Martín Durán, President, Sociedad Chilena de Medicina Paliativa, Chile
Dr. Paola Ruiz, President, President, Asociación de Cuidados Paliativos de Colombia, Colombia
Dr. Alejandro Vargas, President, Asociación Costarricense de Cuidados Paliativos, Costa Rica
Dr. Bethania Martínez, President, Asociación Dominicana de Dolor y Cuidados Paliativos, Dominican Republic
Dr. Tatiana Fernández, President, Asociación Ecuatoriana de Cuidados Paliativos (in formation), Ecuador
Dr. Wilfredo Cruz, President, Sociedad Hondureña de Estudio y Tratamiento del dolor, Honduras
Dr. Nisla Camaño, President, Asociación Panameña de Cuidados Paliativos, Panama
Dr. Miriam Riveros Ríos, President, Asociación Paraguaya de Medicina y Cuidados Paliativos, Paraguay
Dr. Elizabeth Díaz Perez, President, Sociedad Peruana de Cuidados Paliativos, Peru
Dr. Laura Ramos, President, Sociedad Uruguaya de Medicina y Cuidados Paliativos, Uruguay
Dr. Ismariel Espin, President, Sociedad Venezolana de Cuidados Paliativos, Venezuela