

## **Statement to CND Thematic Session November 15, 2024**

As the 2024 World Drug Report has stated, “Some 87 per cent of the world’s population live without adequate access to pharmaceutical opioids for pain relief and palliative care.” Yet ensuring adequate availability is a central purpose of the drug control treaties.

Member states that form part of that 87% of the world can adopt evidence-based governance solutions to ensure availability. The fact that not only wealthy countries in Western Europe, but that some low-income countries, such as Malawi and Uganda, and sub-national districts, such as Kerala in India, can report safe adequate availability, shows that member states with political will CAN meet these treaty obligations. Their success is based on regular constructive engagement between government agencies and civil society and academia.

The IAHPC is a global civil society organization of palliative care practitioners in more than 149 countries. Our individual and institutional members can help their governments overcome the governance deficits that drive unavailability. We welcome invitations to convene multistakeholder consultations with your drug regulators, ministries of health, education, finance and foreign affairs, all of whom need to be around the table. We have coordinated multistakeholder workshops in partnership with INCB in many countries, particularly in Latin America, workshops that are followed by measurable improvement in safe availability of controlled medicines.

The IAHPC will assist any member state willing to engage with us to improve the lives of their populations who need essential medicines listed in the schedules of the drug control conventions. I thank you.

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