



Agenda Item 5. Policy and technical topics

(a) Roadmap to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on the Health 2020 policy framework.”

Statement from IAHPC and WHPCA

The “Roadmap to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” can build on the Health 2020 policy framework by emphasising the importance of developing sustainable palliative care policies and financing under Universal Health Coverage. As WHA 69/15 states, UHC is the Target (3.8) that underpins and is key to the achievement of all the others.”¹

Universal health coverage is defined as all people and all communities receiving the services they need, while ensuring that they are protected from financial hardship. Universal health coverage includes health protection, promotion, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliation.²

The Roadmap (paras.10, 16, 42, 44) reiterates this emphasis on UHC, and commits the Regional office to “provide the necessary specific know-how to promote health-in-all-policies and life-course approaches, strengthen universal health coverage [and] tackle NCDs”. [Para.44]

The Health 2020 framework emphasises the intersectoral nature of a lifecourse approach, the burden of NCDs, which cause 86% of the deaths in the Region, and resilient communities. To be aligned with Agenda 2030, the Health 2020 Framework should explicitly include palliative care development as an essential service under UHC, to ensure that governments develop appropriate policies and budgets in line with guidelines of the European Association for Palliative Care.

Catastrophic out-of-pocket expenses related to the burden of NCDs push many households into the health poverty trap. Palliative care based on ethical communication about prognosis and goals of care, averts over-treatment and unnecessary OOP expenses.

Member states that integrate palliative care services and ensure access to essential palliative care medicines under UHC can help households escape the health poverty trap, ensuring national progress towards Targets 1.1, 1.2, 3.4, 3.8, 4.4, 5.5, 8.5, 8.6.

WHPCA and IAHPC stand ready to help WHO strengthen the Health 2020 Policy Framework priority of strengthening health systems, promoting a lifecourse approach, and building resilient communities by implementing palliative care policies and guidelines.

¹ Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Para.25
http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA69/A69_15-en.pdf

² *ibid.*