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International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care Inc.

Meeting:

Executive Board 146

Agenda Item:

7.1 Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world

Statement:

Thank you Chair. I am Dr. Rumana Dowla, a palliative care physician from Bangladesh and a member of IAHPC, which urges EB member states to form a Group of Friends of Palliative Care at WHO. Such a Group of Friends can consistently address the normative and technical issues relevant to developing Universal Health Coverage that fully integrates palliative care at technical briefings, EB and WHA meetings. This Group of Friends will commit to implementing WHA Resolution 67/19 and integrating palliative care into primary health care under Universal Coverage to meet the Triple Billion Goals. We suggest that the Group of Friends apply for funding from the World Bank for the necessary workforce training to deliver services and improve access to internationally controlled essential medicines such as morphine. An epidemiological transition is here: people are living longer with intractable pain and incurable diseases that workforces are unequipped to manage. Health care delivery for all stages of chronic illness, including palliative care, must be expanded. The need for palliative care in my country has been estimated at over half a million persons per year, including children. Currently only about 500 per year are receiving services. We can do better. I thank you.

Source URL (modified on 02/02/2020 - 15:23):

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