Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing as representatives of the Palliative Medicine association of Lithuania in relation to the current consultation on the draft outcome document for the WHO Global Conference on NCDs to be held 18-20 October in Montevideo. We request that as the lead on NCDs within our government you respond to the current WHO online consultation which closes on the 25th August recognizing the omission of palliative care in the current draft and proposing the amendments as attached.

We congratulate WHO and the Secretariat for the proposed Roadmap and for putting together a document which serves as an excellent base to move forward on the control, treatment, care and palliation of NCDs.

Comments

However, we noticed that palliation and palliative care for people with NCDs are not mentioned in any part of the text. This needs to be addressed as it is critical to promoting the well-being of people’s living with NCDs. As per data from WHO, each year, an estimated 40 million people are in need of palliative care, 78% of them people live in low- and middle-income countries and worldwide, only about 14% of people who need palliative care currently receive it. Most of them need palliative care for advanced NCDs, which result in extreme suffering and inequities, especially the poor.

Palliative care is an essential component of comprehensive health services for NCDs as is stated in the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases. In 2014, the first ever global resolution on palliative care, World Health Assembly resolution WHA67.19, called upon WHO and Member States to improve access to palliative care as a core component of health systems, with an emphasis on primary health care and
community/home-based care.

As part of the open for web-based public consultation we are submitting the attached suggestions containing agreed WHO language, for the next draft of the Roadmap. We hope that you can support us to ensure that WHO will integrate language relevant to palliative care in the outcome document to ensure that no one is left behind.