RE: MONTEVIDEO ROADMAP 2018-2030 ON NCDs AS A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as representative of the Pontifical Academy for Life (Vatican City). We are sending this letter in relation to the draft outcome document for the WHO Global Conference on NCDs to be held 18-20 October in Montevideo.

We congratulate WHO and the Secretariat for the proposed Roadmap and for putting together a document which serves as an excellent base to develop a comprehensive plan for the reduction of premature mortality from non-communicable disease (NCDs). However, we noticed that palliative care for NCDs is not mentioned in any part of the text. This should be addressed.

Although prevention and control of NCDs are a key step in reducing premature mortality linked to this type of diseases, palliative care is essential to ensure adequate control of the symptoms and sustaining the quality of life of the patients. Respect for the patient’s dignity requires this. Through this primary effect, palliative care is also effective in NCD control, resulting in a reduction in the occurrence and severity of possible NCD-related complications. Therefore, palliative care is an essential component of comprehensive health services for NCDs. 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.

As part of the open for web-based public consultation we suggest that the WHO and the committee will integrate language relevant to palliative care in the outcome document to ensure that no one is left behind.

Sincerely,

Msgr. Renzo Pegoraro
Chancellor

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