

WHA55.10 Mental health: responding to the call for action

The Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions [WHA28.84](#) and [EB61.R28](#) on the promotion of mental health, resolution [WHA29.21](#) on psychosocial factors and health, resolutions [WHA32.40](#), [WHA33.27](#) and [EB69.R9](#) on alcohol- and drug-related problems, resolution [WHA30.38](#) on mental retardation, resolution [WHA39.25](#) on prevention of mental, neurological and psychosocial disorders, resolution [EUR/RC51/R5](#) on the Athens Declaration on Mental Health, Man-Made Disasters, Stigma and Community Care, and resolution [EB109.R8](#) on strengthening mental health;

Bearing in mind World Health Day 2001, the ministerial round tables at the Fifty-fourth World Health Assembly, The world health report 2001 on mental health, [15](#) and the multitude of activities initiated during 2000-2002 related to advocacy, policy and programme development, legislation, and research;

Considering the imperative need to pursue and accelerate such activities worldwide in order to improve the mental-health status of populations, especially the most vulnerable groups;

Welcoming the definition in The world health report 2001 of the activities related to promotion, prevention and care and to protection of the human rights of people with mental illness and their families that all Member States can implement according to their level of priorities and resources in mental health;

Recognizing that the toll of mental health problems is very high and rising worldwide, that such problems cause significant disability, heighten the risk of social exclusion, and increase mortality, that stigmatization and discrimination are major problems obstructing the path to care, and that the human and economic costs are staggering;

Noting the existence of programmes which can prevent the occurrence of a significant proportion of these problems and thus reduce their negative social impact and human suffering;

Further recognizing the need to maintain the momentum on mental health in order to raise public and professional awareness of the real burden of mental disorders, to protect the human rights of people with mental illness as an integral component of mental-health policies, and to implement strategies, programmes and policies as proposed in WHO's global action programme for mental health,

URGES Member States:

- (1) to reaffirm the provisions of resolution [EB109.R8](#);
- (2) to provide support to WHO's global action programme for mental health;
- (3) to increase investments in mental health both within countries and in bilateral and multilateral cooperation, as an integral component of the well-being of populations;
- (4) to strengthen action to protect children from and in armed conflict.

(Ninth plenary meeting, 18 May 2002 –
Committee A, first report)