To whom it may concern – IUHPE’s response to the on-line consultation.

The International Union for Health Promotion and Education, a non-state actor in official relations with WHO, welcomes this Web-based consultation on the policy options and cost-effective interventions to promote mental health and well-being.

We appreciate that population-based/setting-based interventions have been included in the menu of options, e.g. universal and indicated school-based socio-emotional learning programs. However, a large portion of the interventions listed target individuals who are already affected by mental disorders to varying degrees. While we recognize that such services are more amenable to cost-effectiveness analyses, the result is that the options presented largely leave the determinants of mental health unaddressed. Your document states that “A major implication of target 3.4 of the SDGs for mental health policy and practice is a renewed emphasis on implementing a strong public health approach that addresses the known determinants of mental health” (Annex 1, Draft menu of cost-effective interventions for mental health, September 2, 2019).

The document would benefit from more explicit acknowledgement that the options presented should be adopted among structural measures aimed at well-known determinants of population mental health throughout the lifecourse (including improving conditions of everyday life and equality, as previously identified by WHO*), and that such measures are instrumental in reducing the overall financial burden of individual interventions for those suffering from mental disorders.


On behalf of IUHPE,

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