



78th WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
May 2025

Pillar 1: One billion more people benefiting from universal health coverage
Mental health and social connection (item 13.2)

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

In the wake of growing social isolation, the World Medical Association reaffirms that mental health, and the social connections that underpin it, are foundational to universal health coverage and resilient systems. We stress the urgency of integrating accessible, high-quality mental health services into primary healthcare, as part of a multi-sectoral collaboration. The expansion of community mental health services must be a priority, with a focus on access for marginalised populations and reducing stigma.

As affirmed in the [WMA Declaration of Lisbon](#), “*every patient has the right to continuity of health care,*” encompassing mental, social, and physical health. We stand ready to partner with WHO Commission on Social Connection to make mental health central to global health programmes.

Thank you