

WHO Executive Board 158th session
February 2026

Mental Health (item 7)

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

The World Medical Association welcomes the Director-General's report and supports the transition to person-centred, community-based mental health care within the framework of universal health coverage that is grounded in human rights. People living with mental health condition must have access to healthcare as any other patient, free from stigma and discrimination, and with respect for their dignity, autonomy, right to confidentiality and informed consent. The WMA supports integrating evidence-based interventions into primary care as an entry point, including mhGAP¹ informed care, alongside adequately resourced secondary and tertiary services, with clear referral and back-referral pathways.

We urge sustained financing and investment in the mental health workforce, as well as the provision of safe working conditions and meaningful engagement of people with lived experience, including in emergency preparedness and response.

Thank you.

¹ WHO's Mental Health Gap Action Programme