

(f) Progress achieved in the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and the promotion of mental health

Thank you chair

Israel would like to thank the secretariat for the report on the progress achieved in preventing and controlling NCDs and promoting mental health.

Throughout this EB session, we have talked numerous times on Mental Health, discussions that are now becoming more public and open. For too long, mental health was a neglected issue. Israel supports WHO's stance on ensuring that mental health is placed at the forefront of our discussions. The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed this agenda forward but at the same time caused widespread adversity and distress and has impacted many determinants that affect mental health and well-being.

The data brought in the report is concerning, and the global situation for mental health remains challenging. Close to 1 billion people experience a mental disorder, including 1 in 7 adolescents. More than 1 of every 100 deaths is due to suicide, which is also the fourth leading cause of death in young people aged 15–29.

This is a strong reminder of the importance of WHO's work on Mental health. On the national, regional, and global levels, we must not forget our duty to ensure that mental health and well-being are being properly addressed in health services. Therefore, we commend the WHO for the many initiatives and programs, detailed in the report, and stand ready to support the secretariat with these efforts.

Israel would also like to stress the need to strengthen mental health rehabilitation services in the community, addressing the needs of those who cope with mental health, even before the pandemic. In Israel, we see the support in a holistic way, including in housing, employment, social skills and leisure, and family support services.

Furthermore, we must ensure that mental health services are a part of Universal Health Coverage packages for equal and high-quality access for the entire population.

Thank you for ensuring this critical topic is highlighted.