

Honourable chair,

Distinguished delegates,

Bulgaria aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

Bulgaria takes note of the report and appreciates its comprehensive and integrated approach to mental health, brain health, and substance use, as well as its emphasis on human rights, person-centered services, and the development of community-based services.

Bulgaria supports the report's strategic focus on strengthening governance, integrating mental health into primary health care, and increasing the resilience of health systems.

In this context, we believe that the approaches and guidelines proposed in the report should be applied flexibly, taking into account national specificities, available resources, and health systems characteristics. Bulgaria supports the role of the WHO in providing strategic guidance, technical assistance, and platforms for the exchange of good practices, without taking additional binding commitments beyond the already agreed frameworks.

On the first guiding question, we believe that WHO's support could be strengthened by:

- working with national health authorities on developing evidence-based policies that are adaptable to the national context;
- supporting the national health authorities in capacity building approaches, especially at the primary healthcare level;
- promoting the exchange of experience between Member States.

As regards the second question, we support efforts to improve indicators and data collection mindful of domestic data protection rules and decreasing the excessive administrative burden for national institutions.

Thank you!