The Commonwealth of The Bahamas

74th WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY (2021)
AGENDA ITEM 18: Mental Health Preparedness and Response for the COVID-19 Pandemic
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS Document A74/9, EB148/2021/REC/1, and decision EB148(3)

Madam Chair
The Bahama commends the work of the Executive Board in placing a spotlight on the issue of mental health once again. The Bahamas remains committed to improving the services that are provided in the prevention and management of mental health issues at all levels. While significant work has been achieved in the strengthening of clinical resources in the training and recruitment of mental health nurses and psychiatrists, there remains a need for the design of a mental health services construct that maps out the types of services available in-country, the training and skills provided in the various spaces, the gaps that remain and the strategic plan to improve the provision of mental health services. Several initiatives have stalled due to the need to respond to the natural disasters caused by category five hurricanes and more recently the COVID-19 pandemic. There remains recognition of the need to intentionally pursue mental health strategy that straddles existing primary care and tertiary care connections so it becomes interwoven with the package of health service delivery.

Madam Chair
The Bahamas fully endorses the three recommendations in the document as they reflect aptly both the strategy moving forward and the work underway in strengthening our mental health capacity and services. We look forward to the information and educational materials and other media assets that will assist in increasing the awareness of the importance of seeking and preserving good mental health.

Thank you.