

Agenda item 13.1

resolution WHA77.3 (2024) and decision WHA74(14) (2021))

**Statement of I.R. Iran on
Comprehensive mental health action plan 2013–2030**

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for the preparation of this document.

The issue of psychosocial interventions in disasters and emergencies is of paramount importance, particularly for regions affected by heightened risk, such as the Middle East and North Africa. We recognize the value of the presented program, noting its comprehensive nature and grounding in prior experiences and evidence-based practices. Global coordination in this field has the potential to enhance the mental and social well-being of communities significantly.

In addition to the points already raised, we wish to emphasize the importance of ensuring global equity in this domain. Support for communities facing continuous exposure to aggression and harm, where governmental capacity to provide services is severely constrained, such as the residents of the Gaza Strip, is vital and should be prioritized by international organizations. Furthermore, establishing effective support mechanisms for countries hosting refugees in such challenging circumstances is both critical and necessary to facilitate the provision of essential services.

Within Iran, the psychosocial support program for disasters, building upon previous experiences, has been integrated into the National Mental Health Program. A comprehensive national program has been developed, communicated, and is currently being implemented, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders. The Ministry of Health, through its Office of Mental, Social Health and Addiction, is responsible for coordinating psychosocial interventions in this area, ensuring the continuous and effective implementation of all stipulated provisions, including the regular training of psychologists.

As a good example, during a recent explosion in the south of the country, we rapidly deployed inter-sectoral coordination within 24 hours and a training program for mental health experts was held within 48 hours.

Psychosocial support for Afghan migrants is another ongoing initiative provided within the framework of Iran's PHC network for many years, with a particular emphasis in the last three years.

Thank you, Madam/Mr. Chair.