



**WHO Executive Board 156th session**  
February 2025

**Pillar 1: One billion more people benefiting from universal health coverage**

**Item 8: Mental health and social connection**

**- Mental health as a dedicated agenda item at WHO Governing Bodies (D)**

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

The World Medical Association welcomes the proposal to prioritize mental health as a dedicated agenda item at WHO Governing Bodies. Mental health is a fundamental component of universal health coverage and requires full integration into health systems, particularly at the primary healthcare level. We call for evidence-based strategies to strengthen community-based mental health services, prioritize suicide prevention, and reduce stigma, with a focus on reaching marginalized populations.

We emphasize the need for multisectoral collaboration and culturally appropriate interventions to ensure equitable, quality care for all. We are committed to working with WHO to advance the objectives of the Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan, fostering global mental health security and resilience.

Thank you.