**Video message**

**Consultation on Mental Health and Human Rights**

**Organizer: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**

**Geneva, Switzerland**

**23 October 2024**

High Commissioner Volker Türk,

Excellencies, dear colleagues and friends,

I thank High Commissioner Türk for holding this important consultation on the often-neglected issue of mental health and human right.

I commend Brazil and Portugal for their leadership in advancing a rights-based approach to mental health.

At the global level, while there has been some progress on improving mental health services, in many countries they remain inadequate, and may violate human rights standards, such as through institutionalization, coercion, and neglect.

Our responsibility is clear: we must advance policies that protect the human rights of those with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities.

Last year’s Human Rights Council resolution reaffirmed the need for coordinated efforts to align national laws and policies with international standards.

In response, WHO and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights jointly published new guidance for countries on reforming mental health laws and promoting community-based services.

This builds on other WHO resources developed through the QualityRights Initiative, to address stigma and discrimination and promote rights-based mental health services.

Upcoming WHO policy guidance on mental health and human rights also takes into account social determinants such as poverty, housing instability, and the climate crisis.

Thank you all for your commitment to mental health and human rights.

Because there is no health without mental health.

I thank you.

[223 words]