Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed representatives,

It is with great honor, joy, and enthusiasm that Brazil participates in this consultation on human rights and mental health, held in the context of resolution 52/12 of the Human Rights Council.

I extend my greetings to Mr. Wolker Türk, High Commissioner for Human Rights; Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Director-General of the World Health Organization; Ms. Joana Fisher, Deputy Permanent Representative and Chargée d'Affaires of the Government of Portugal; and Ms. Michelle Funk, Head of the Policy, Law and Human Rights Unit at the World Health Organization in Geneva.

I would also like to acknowledge all authorities present at this moment.

I warmly acknowledge the valuable presence of representatives from international organizations, states, intergovernmental organizations, and especially those who share their lived experiences, including organizations representing persons with psychosocial disabilities and those engaged in mental health.

I would like to extend a special greeting to those who have worked tirelessly to make this consultation possible. These individuals often perform anonymous yet essential work of the highest quality and dedication.

It is through the diversity of representatives and the competent efforts of many that we gather today to affirm the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities and those who are occasional or frequent users of mental health services.

I come from a place in Brazil, the Northeast region, where we learn from a very early age (I would say ancestrally) that no right is granted; all rights are fought for. If the existence of rights is difficult to attain, achieving their consistency is even more challenging.

This consultation not only activates local and regional levels in its calling but also flows into a powerful movement of debate, exchange, and proposal aimed at advancing better practices for human rights and mental health in the global context of promoting human dignity.

We must cultivate a new cycle.

We hope that states will take concrete and consistent commitments with appropriate measures, adopting policies that eliminate discrimination and promote the legal capacity, autonomy, and community inclusion of individuals with psychosocial disabilities.

Furthermore, there should be intersectoral collaboration to replace the age-old logic of guardianship with support and care, always with the participation of persons with psychosocial disabilities.

I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to be here in this space of exchange and to revitalize our commitment to a strong global agenda for human rights and mental health.

João Cabral de Mello Neto, a fellow native from my region, in his masterful work *Morte e Vida Severina*, includes a passage that I carry in my soul. It says: “It is difficult to defend life solely with words, especially when it is this life that Severina sees; but if I could not respond to the question she posed, life answered with its vibrant presence.”

It is only with the presence of persons with disabilities that we believe life will improve.

I am immensely grateful for this moment.

Wishing a fruitful consultation for us all!

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Original in portuguese below

Senhoras e senhores, digníssimos representantes,

É com grande honra, alegria e muita disposição que o Brasil participa desta consulta em direitos humanos e saúde mental por ocasião da resolução 52/12 do Conselho de Diretos Humanos.

Saudações ao Senhor Wolker Türk, High Commissioner for Human Rights; Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Director-General World Health Organization, Ms. Joana Fisher, Deputy-Permanent Representative and Chargée d'Affaires Government of Portugal; Ms. Michelle Funk, Head of the unit on Policy, Law and Human Rights team at the World Health Organization in Geneva, em nome de quem saúdo todas as autoridades que participam desse momento.

Saúdo a valorosa presença de representantes de Organismos Internacionais, de Estados, de organizações intergovernamentais e, especialmente, das pessoas que trazem suas experiências vividas e das organizações da pessoa com deficiência psicossocial e de atuação na saúde mental.

Gostaria de fazer uma saudação também muito especial para as pessoas que trabalharam intensamente para que esta consulta esteja aqui acontecendo. Pessoas que na maior parte do tempo fazem um trabalho anônimo, mas imprescindível e de altíssima qualidade e dedicação.

É pela diversidade de representantes e pelo competente trabalho de muitos que hoje nos reunimos na laboriosa tarefa de afirmar os direitos das pessoas com deficiência psicossocial e usuárias ocasionais ou frequentes de serviços de saúde mental.

Venho de um lugar do Brasil, a região nordeste, que a gente aprende desde muito cedo (ancestralmente, diria) que nenhum direito é dado, todos são arrancados com muita luta. E se o direito é difícil de ganhar existência, mais ainda é de ganhar consistência.

A consulta além de ativar os níveis locais e regionais no seu chamamento, desagua em um potente movimento de debate, trocas e de proposição na direção de melhores práticas de direitos humanos e saúde mental para o cenário global da promoção da dignidade humana.

É preciso frutificar um novo ciclo. Esperamos que os Estados assumam compromissos concretos e consistentes com medidas adequadas.

Adotando políticas que eliminem a discriminação e promovam a capacidade legal, a autonomia e a inclusão comunitária de indivíduos com deficiências psicossociais.

Ainda, que se promova a articulação intersetorial para que a secular lógica da tutela seja substituída pelo apoio e pelo cuidado, sempre com a participação das pessoas com deficiência psicossocial.

Agradeço imensamente a oportunidade de estarmos aqui neste lugar da troca e da revitalização do nosso compromisso no esforço global para uma agenda forte de Direitos Humanos e Saúde Mental.

João Cabral de Mello Neto, um conterrâneo da minha região, em sua magistral obra Morte e Vida Severina, tem uma passagem que traz uma fala que sempre carrego na minha alma. E diz assim: “É difícil defender, *só com palavras, a vida, ainda mais quando ela é* *esta que vê, Severina;* *mas se responder não pude* *à pergunta que fazia,* *ela, a vida, a respondeu* *com sua presença viva.”*

É somente com a presença das pessoas com deficiência que acreditamos que a vida vai melhorar.

Agradeço imensamente por este momento.

Uma boa consulta para todos nós!

It is with great honor, joy, and enthusiasm that Brazil participates in this consultation on resolution 52/12 of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights concerning Human Rights and Mental Health.

I would like to acknowledge the esteemed presence of representatives from international organizations, states, intergovernmental organizations, and especially the individuals sharing their lived experiences.

I extend a very special greeting to those who have worked tirelessly to make this consultation possible—individuals who often perform essential yet anonymous work.

It is through the diversity of representatives and the competent efforts of many that we gather today to affirm the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities and occasional or frequent users of mental health services.

I come from a place in Brazil, the Northeast region, where we learn from a young age (or perhaps, I would say, from our ancestors) that no right is granted; all rights are earned through considerable struggle. If it is difficult to attain rights, it is even more challenging to ensure their consistent realization.

This consultation not only activates local and regional engagement but also catalyzes a powerful movement of debate, exchange, and proposals aimed at improving human rights and mental health practices on a global scale for the promotion of human dignity.

We hope that states will make concrete and consistent commitments with appropriate measures, adopting policies that eliminate discrimination and promote legal capacity, autonomy, and community inclusion for individuals with psychosocial disabilities.

Furthermore, we advocate for intersectoral collaboration to replace the entrenched logic of guardianship with support and care, always involving persons with psychosocial disabilities in the process.

I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to be here in this space of exchange and revitalization of our commitment to improving lives and dignity.

Wishing all of us a fruitful consultation!