

The Regional Committee,

Having considered the report of the Regional Director on mental health;¹

Recalling resolutions WHA28.84, WHA29.21, WHA32.13, WPR/RC29.R12 and WPR/RC31.R24;

Recognizing that mental, neurological and psychosocial problems are of major public health significance;

Convinced that the promotion of mental health, prevention of mental ill health and the treatment of prevalent mental and neurological disorders are essential components of national programmes designed to implement the strategies of health for all by the year 2000;

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to give increased attention to programmes designed to improve mental health, including the setting up of national coordinating groups on mental health;

(2) to develop community-based mental health services to deal with mental and neurological illness and the psychosocial aspects of health in their national health programmes;

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

(1) to strengthen cooperation with countries in the development of national mental health programmes in specific areas of public health importance;

(2) to foster and coordinate multi-centre studies in the Region to further improve methods which can be used to promote mental health in Member States;

(3) to monitor the magnitude and severity of mental, neurological and psychosocial problems and to assemble data on the effectiveness and acceptability of methods and programmes dealing with these problems;

(4) to initiate, wherever possible, programmes dealing with issues of particular interest to countries in the Region, such as the promotion of child mental health and prevention of mental retardation and senile dementia.

Ninth meeting, 20 September 1985

¹ Document WPR/RC36/14.