

The Regional Committee,

Recalling resolutions WHA28.84, WHA29.21, WHA32.13, WPR/RC27.R5 and WPR/RC29.R12, which noted with concern the magnitude and severity of mental health problems and the importance of psychosocial factors in health care;

Recalling further that the International Conference on Primary Health Care held at Alma-Ata recommended that the promotion of mental health should be one of the elements of primary health care;

Considering that mental health and psychosocial development are of central importance in efforts to achieve health for all by the year 2000;

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to strengthen their mental health programmes so as to:

(a) improve the prevention and care of mental and neurological disorders;

(b) undertake measures to deal with problems related to alcohol and drug dependence; and

(c) ensure that the psychosocial aspects of health care and development are given appropriate attention;

(2) to establish coordinating mechanisms within countries which will be vested with sufficient authority and given support to select priorities, reorient resources and implement programmes;

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director to:

(1) initiate or strengthen cooperation with countries in the accelerated development of mental health components within the general health services, using the primary health care approach;

(2) provide training opportunities for the various categories of personnel involved in dealing with psychosocial problems.