**Consultation on Human Rights and Mental Health – “Identifying strategies to promote human rights and mental health”**

**14-15 May, Room XVI, Palais des Nations**

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the member countries of **Foreign Policy and Global Health (FPGH)**, a group comprising Brazil, France, Indonesia, Norway, Senegal, South Africa and Thailand.

Over the past 10 years, the Foreign Policy and Global Health initiative has stood out in promoting greater synergy between Foreign Policy and Global Health, in particular through the presentation of an annual resolution at the UNGA highlighting different important aspects related to public health.

Our initiative is based on our common understanding that global health increasingly requires concerted responses and collaborative efforts at all levels. We are pleased to participate today in this consultation which is a good example of how the international community can act to support global health through the promotion of human rights in mental health discussions.

The WHO constitution defines health as not merely the absence of disease or infirmity but as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being. It also states that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.

The right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, recognized by a number of international instruments, considers mental health as an integral and essential component of health, which is more than just the absence of mental disorders or disabilities.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly recognizes the importance of promoting mental health. The principles of "leaving no one behind" and "reaching the furthest behind first" justify the need for better strategies to combat discrimination and stigma and to provide improved access to mental health servicesthat are based on respect for human rights.

The FPGH believes that it is high time to recognize mental health as an emerging global health priority and to treat it with the same attention and care as physical health.

The FPGH calls for a paradigm shift in the context of mental health policies, away from coercion, over-medicalization, exclusion and stigma.

Mental health policies and services must be in accordance with human rights norms and respect the autonomy, dignity and the right to health of every person.

Policy coherence and collaboration among UN agencies are fundamental. WHO should reinforce its leadership and work actively, including with UN Country Teams, to provide technical support and help building capacities of Member States and other stakeholders in scaling up efforts to implement high-impact and cost-effective measures.

Thank you.