



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
Minister's Cabinet  
International Health Affairs Advisory

**Consultation mandated by resolution 43/13, entitled "Mental Health and Human Rights", a joint initiative of Brazil and Portugal.**

*Monday, November 15, 2021*

**Mental Health and Human Rights**

*(573 words)*

High Commissioner for Human Rights, Madam Michelle Bachelet;  
Deputy Director General of the World Health Organization, Dr. Zsuzsanna Jakab;  
Minister of Health of Portugal, Dr. Marta Temido.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to take part in this intersessional consultation on human rights and mental health.

The only country with more than 200 million inhabitants to guarantee universal access to health, Brazil is a forefront actor in the debates in Geneva in favor of promoting the human right to health. Alongside Portugal, we led an initiative on human rights and mental health in 2016. Since then, we have reiterated the importance of considering the social determinants of mental health, with special attention to persons with disabilities, drug users and people living in poverty.

This year, we celebrate 20 years of the Brazilian psychiatric reform, based on Law 10.216, which recognized the rights of people with mental disorders. The legislation strengthened access to care and promoted psychosocial rehabilitation and social reintegration.

Another key milestone to guarantee the rights of people with mental disorders was the enactment, in 2015, of the “Brazilian Law for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities”, which internalized the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, affirming the civil and political rights of this population.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We need to think of mental health as an integral and inseparable part of the human right to health. The Brazilian Government has been engaged in the development of instruments that induce a community-based mental health care model, for the defense, protection and promotion of the human rights of people with mental disorders.

We advanced in mental health care, seeking to expand psychosocial assistance throughout the country and to reduce the need for hospital care.

Brazil is in an advanced stage in the transition of its mental health care model.

Following the principles of the Brazilian Unified Health System, all services in the Brazilian mental health network are offered universally. They expand the population's access to psychosocial care through humanized care, continuous monitoring and attention to urgencies and emergencies.

We expanded the “Therapeutic Residential Service”, which welcomes patients who are leaving long-term care and supports their reintegration.

Among the achievements of the Brazilian Mental Health Policy, we highlight:

- The expansion of the “Psychosocial Care Network” within the scope of our Unified Health System, with the creation of two health care instances for people with mental disorders: the Multiprofessional Care Team Specialized in Mental Health and the Psychosocial Care Center on Alcohol and Drugs;
- The creation of nearly 3,000 “Psychosocial Care Centers”, a free, open, community-based service aimed at treating patients with mental disorders by offering medical and psychological care;
- The establishment of 70 adult and child-juvenile Reception Units, designed to protect patients who have problems with psychoactive substances;
- The expansion of Therapeutic Residential Services and specialized and outpatient beds;

- Permanent education actions to qualify professionals and workers involved in the Mental Health Network, aimed at promoting tolerance and reducing stigma and prejudice.

For post COVID-19 pandemic, we are planning actions to reinforce urgent and emergency care, telemedicine actions and strengthening the qualification of mental health care in primary health care.

I wish you all a very productive debate session and reaffirm Brazil's commitment to the protection and promotion of mental health.

Thank you very much!