



## **Comments on the zero draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

### **Longer version of comments delivered during the session on 24 June 2015 of the Intergovernmental Negotiations Interactive Session with Civil Society**

Thank you, distinguished co-chairs, Excellencies and colleagues. I am Dr. Judy Kuriansky, and I am pleased to offer these specific comments about the Zero Draft, in my role as Chair of the Psychology Coalition of NGOs accredited with ECOSOC at the UN, and as the main representative of the International Association of Applied Psychology and the World Council of Psychotherapy, on behalf of these and several other international and regional associations. Together, these represent a constituency of thousands of psychologists and mental health experts, scientists and practitioners worldwide.

We extend congratulations to the co-chairs for their exemplary leadership and for crafting an agenda that is visionary and transformative. We appreciate the focus on the PEOPLE, and on the 5 P's: People, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. Such alliteration with meaningful principles is communicative, understandable, and memorable to the public – a goal many member states have noted, and one that as a journalist, I greatly agree with.

We recommend strengthening the Declaration by adding references to wellbeing, while also making sure that wherever health is mentioned, it refers to physical health, mental health and wellbeing, consistent with WHO definitions and with a visionary approach to the new agenda. We greatly appreciate the inclusion of "promote mental health and wellbeing" in the Zero document, as it is truly transformative, and received extensive support from member states during the OWG process; therefore we would like to see this reflected in the Declaration, and the introduction.

Specifically, we suggest the following, to strengthen the declaration:

(1) Since including mental health and wellbeing is truly transformative (as it is included in target 3.4), this would be strengthened in the Declaration, by:

- (a) In the Preamble, in the second bullet point, insert the words "**physical and mental**" before the word "health" and add the words "**and well-being**" after the word "health" so the phrase reads, "Secure education, health and well-being, and basic service for all." Iceland and Palau specifically suggested this. This is consistent with the wording of the Health Goal 3 that includes well-being. Member states during these IGN sessions have mentioned the

importance of wellbeing; these include Palau, Benin, Italy, Liberia, Montenegro, Bhutan and Belarus.

- (b) In para 23, add a sentence at the end to read, “**These efforts together achieve our vision of integrating physical health, mental health and well-being.**”

As it stands now, only physical health issues are enumerated in this para, conspicuously leaving out reference to mental health, that is included in Goal 3 and should be reflected here. A visionary, transformative, holistic view requires that health always refers to physical and mental health, also consistent with WHO definitions. Palau has championed this issue. Liberia said in their statement, “*the significance of mental health should be clearly captured and stated in the SDGs.*”

- (c) In para 16, after the words “broad policy agenda,” include the phrase, “**which is essential for the wellbeing of all peoples and the planet.**” This was also suggested in the statement by the “Health in the Post 2015 Coalition.”

(2) In para 27, insert the words “**structural and psychosocial**” before the word “resilience” in the last sentence, to clarify these two aspects of resilience, especially since this agenda is for the people, and since many disasters worldwide have left people traumatized and needing support. Use of this word “psychosocial” is consistent with the Sendai Framework, para 33 (o), that states: “Enhance recovery schemes to provide **psychosocial** support and mental health services for all people in need.” Palau supports this distinction and has made statements during this IGN to that effect. Resilience has been emphasized this week in statements by Japan, Maldives (on behalf of AOSIS), Belize (on behalf CARICOM), the Dominican Republic and Vietnam. Benin, on behalf of the LDCs, has noted the importance of psychological needs being addressed.

(3) In para 39, insert the words, “**including measurements beyond GDP**” at the end of the last sentence, after the phrase “in supporting and tracking progress.” Italy and the EU, among others, specifically mentioned this during this week’s IGN. This reflects the need to collect data supporting indicators of progress in areas beyond economic, in the other two pillars, e.g., social and environmental. Such measurements exist, and are documented in the World Happiness Reports, by Jeffrey Sachs and other noted economists. Such efforts were highlighted at the 2012 UN High-level Meeting on Wellbeing and Happiness: Defining a New Economic Paradigm,” that was mandated by the United Nations General Assembly, and organized by the Mission of Bhutan with many member states’ participation. Also, the Major Group on Business and Industry, in their statement this morning, called for a vision that delivers more to global happiness.

(4) To combat racism and racial/ethnic discrimination, both overt and covert, that continue to be the source of global conflicts and inequalities, causing disadvantage and marginalization among peoples worldwide, and in the spirit of a truly transformative agenda, we recommend:

(a) in para 11, after the words, “the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” insert the phrase, “**and other human rights standards, such as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and all other human rights conventions,**”

(b) in para 12, recognize the structural and systemic bases of disparities, by adding a phrase at the end of the second sentence, after the word “power” that reads: “**rooted in structural historic and contemporary human rights violations including discriminatory laws and practices which result in social and economic disparities.**”

(c) On p. 43 in #17, to the list of groups requiring disaggregated data that enumerates: “by age...” add the words “**indigenous identity, class/caste.**” This reflects a genuine commitment to “leaving no one behind.”

(5) In para 24, lines 1 and 2, we suggest adding a phrase “**to minimize social and environmental impacts**” after the phrase “We commit to making fundamental changes in the way that our societies produce and consume goods and services.” Many Member States over the past days have mentioned the need to address the environmental pillar, and since our Coalition divisions on environmental science prove that a healthy environmental ensures wellbeing, thus,

If the Introduction is open to edits, we suggest: on p.41, in para 7, in the list of rights, after food and water, add the words “**physical and mental health and wellbeing.**”

Regarding suggestions for the title for the new agenda, as requested by the co-chairs, we offer the following: **"The Agenda for Global Transformation: Action and Achievement Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals"**

We are ready and committed to contribute the science and applied experience of our profession, to partner with governments, colleagues in civil society, the major groups and other stakeholders, about the indicators and MOIs, to communicate with the public and other groups about the SDGs -- the necessity of which has been discussed many times at the sessions -- and to ensure that the agenda is realized.

Thank you very much for your attention and consideration.

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