



## DECLARATION OF ATHENS

Whereas,

Throughout the world there are 35 to 40 million persons with serious mental disorder; and,

Recognizing that half of the world's population survives on less than \$2 per day and 1.2 billion persons on less than one dollar a day; and

Observing increasing recruitment of health and mental health personnel from developing countries to work in developed countries; and,

Whereas the lack of the above mentioned resources and primary health care has contributed annually to the deaths of millions of persons with severe mental disorders; and,

Cognizant of the World Health Organization's Global Priority Agenda for greater assistance and efforts to deal with HIV-AIDS, TB and Malaria;

Therefore;

The World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation, at its World Congress in Athens, Greece, October 14th, 2006

Urges the adoption of policies to save millions of lives.

1. Recommends financial support and appropriate compensation to permit expansion of educational institutions in developing countries for the recruitment of their health and mental health personnel;

2. Urges increased education and appropriate training to provide for increased numbers of health and mental health personnel in developing countries;

3. Recommends the organization and strengthening of family and other associations, including industry and trade unions to promote the survival, employment and well being of persons with severe mental disorders and disabilities;

4. Calls the attention of the World's leaders, the public and health and mental health authorities to the urgent need to save the lives of millions and to include severe mental illness along with HIV-AIDS, Malaria and TB in the WHO Global Priorities Agenda;

Calls upon all NGO's,religious and lay leaders and professional associations to join with the World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation to alert the public to press for action to save the lives of the millions who are dying and advocate for the inclusion of severe mental disorder in the WHO Global Priority Agenda.

Approved by the Assembly