GLOBAL PSYCHOLOGY ALLIANCE

RESOLUTION

The Global Psychology Alliance

RECALLING that the Global Psychology Alliance ("Alliance") has been actively collaborating globally since the 2019 Lisbon Summit by collectively advancing the leadership of psychologists and the science of psychology on behalf of member organizations and the public;

PROCLAIMING that the Alliance commits to continued cooperation directed toward addressing cri- tical global challenges framed within the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a focus on SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives for all at all ages; SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries; and SDG 13:Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;

AFFIRMING that the Alliance values multi-and intercultural synergy and cooperation, inclusion, and active strategies to bring a global diversity of voices to the table; works to strengthen global partnerships and action; and promotes the active engagement of psychological science and application in all sectors of society;

WHEREAS United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3 urges that we ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, and acknowledges that human health relies upon both mental and physical well-being;

NOTING that global mental health is an evolving field of research and practice that aims to alleviate biopsychosocial suffering through culturally relevant prevention, care, and treatment of mental health problems; to promote and sustain the psychosocial health and wellbeing of individuals and communities around the world; and to effect systemic change in the accessibility, organization and delivery of mental health services;

GRANTING that mental health remains commonly neglected despite its clear importance to global health, economies, and human rights. An estimated 1 in 5 adults experience a mental health problem, and 80% of people with severe mental disorders receive no treatment for their disorder in low-income and middle-income countries; 25-50% receive no treatment in high-income countries[1];

RECOGNIZING that the over the course of the first year of COVID-19, the global prevalence of anxiety and depression increased by 25%, exacerbated by pandemic-related service interruptions and, by the second year of COVID-19, progress toward ensuring healthy lives halted or reversed[2] and

RECOGNIZING that this increased burden can be expected to rise further in the face of increased exposure to adverse risks, such as conflict and displacement;

ACKNOWLEDGING that stigma against mental health issues remains prevalent globally[3];

EMPHASIZING that psychology as a scientific profession advances global mental health through: mental health and wellbeing literacy programs, socio-emotional development programs; culturally competent service delivery; provision of high quality psychological care and services in all sec tors (education, health, justice, social); community-based mental health care teams of psychologists and other professionals; integrated mental healthcare systems; programs to combat stigma and discrimination; and through educating and training psychologists, as well as other specialists and non-specialists where task-sharing is beneficial;

WHEREAS United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 10 acknowledges the urgent need to **reduce inequality within and among countries** where data indicate pervasive gender, ethnic, economic, historical, and geographical discrepancies;

STRESSING that inequality is perpetrated and perpetuated when systems built on structural racism result in policy decisions that favor those with unearned power and privilege, leading to devastating real-world and human consequences, including all forms of discrimination, disproportional negative impacts of climate change, displacement and

1 https://www.who.int/health-topics/mental-health#tab=tab_1

2 https://www.who.int/news/item/02-03-2022-covid-19-pandemic-triggers-25-increase-in-prevalence-of-anxiety-and-depression-worldwide

3 World Health Organization. (2014). *Stigma and discrimination*. Retrieved from https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/noncommunicable-diseases/mental-health/priority-areas/stigma-and-discrimination

forced migration, and disproportional mortality, morbidity and loss of quality of life and wellbeing.[4]

HIGHLIGHTING that mental health problems stem, in part, from experiencing inequality and systemic discrimination including generational racism, oppression and exclusion, and further illustrated by limited access to safe housing, health care, food security, quality education, disability services, technology, or opportunities for competencies development and employment;[5]

RECOGNIZING that psychological science and psychologists can address inequality, inequity, and discrimination by recognizing and predicting implicit bias, by using research findings to reduce outgroup devaluation and behaviors that allow discrimination and unequal treatment; by delivering knowledge about equity and human rights, by enhancing awareness and promoting prevention of conditions leading to inequality, by developing solutions in partnership with those least likely to hold power, and by advocating for policies that promote equality;

WHEREAS United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 13 urges that we **take action to combat climate change and its impacts,** and acknowledges there is overwhelming agreement among climate scientists that the earth is warming, due primarily to increased amounts of carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse" gases being emitted into the atmosphere and that the increase in emissions is due to human activities;

RECOGNIZING that higher surface temperatures have led to changes in the climate of every region of the planet, including altered precipitation patterns, rising sea levels, melting polar ice, and in creases in severe storms, flooding, heatwaves, drought, and wildfires, which threaten human health and wellbeing, cultures and societies;

ACKNOWLEDGING that climate change is contributing to greater prevalence and severity of mental health challenges, including post-traumatic stress, anxiety, depression, and substance use disorders; interpersonal aggression and violence; impaired cognitive and brain function; to physical health conditions including infectious diseases; cardiovascular, respiratory, kidney and allergic conditions; and to social problems including community breakdown; and population displacements;

APPRECIATING that all communities are impacted, and that marginalized and disadvantaged countries, communities and peoples disproportionately bear the negative impacts of climate change

EMPHASIZING that psychological science and psychologists can address climate change through research and psychological interventions to: ameliorate harms to mental health and build resilience; encourage environmentally friendly attitudes and behaviors and pro-social and pro-health behaviors; offer support to climate refugees;

FURTHER emphasizing that psychologists can also address climate change through developing tools to promote literacy on climate, health; and wellbeing; developing environmental education programs related to human wellbeing; providing tools to empower individuals, organizations and communities with cognitive, social, and emotional competencies for problem-solving; developing interventions to foster better interconnectivity and social cohesion within communities; developing interventions for individual and organizational behavior change or personal and social transition and adaptation; using psychological science data to support climate decision making and decision makers; and contributing to the design and implementation of public policies concerning climate, healthy environments, and resilient communities; bringing human factors to the design of environmentally friendly buildings and communities; contributing to the creation and uptake of green technologies; advocating for improved climate policies; and educating policy makers about risk assessment and behavioral change interventions;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the participating Alliance psychology organizations will collaborate to advocate for and support international and cross-disciplinary collaboration to prioritize addressing SDGs 3, 10 and 13.

The Alliance agrees to apply psychological science and practice to: a) promote health, advance global mental health and wellbeing, and raise awareness about the direct and indirect long-term consequences of a global health crisis (SDG3); b) increase equity and inclusion among peoples and communities and decrease all forms of discrimination (SDG1O); c) help mitigate climate change and facilitate adaptation to its effects (SDG13).

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4 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2020). *Inequality in a rapidly changing world*. Retrieved from https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/02/World-Social-Report2020-FullReport.pdf

5 World Health Organization. (2014). *Social determinants of mental health*. Retrieved from https://apps.who.int/iris/bits tream/handle/10665/112828/9789241506809_eng.pdf.

To carry out this goal, the Alliance will develop materials, messages and initiatives to:

1. Promote public awareness and literacy about how psychological science and application address the causes and consequences of human behavior relevant to SDGs 3, 1o and 13;
2. Promote public awareness and literacy about the ways that psychological science and application can be used to bring about attitude and behavior change; develop culturally relevant interventions, empower action, and promote long term well-being;
3. Encourage psychology organizations and their members to include information about the SDGs in their programs, educational materials, and practices, and to promote discussion and cooperation with national and international organizations about strategies for applying psychological science and application to achieving the goals of the SDGs;
4. Encourage psychology organizations to actively inform and engage with local, national and global policy makers for the design, implementation and evaluation of public policy; and actively engage with national and international organizations
5. Encourage psychology organizations to model their own organizational structures and practices to exemplify "best practices" in achieving the goals of SDGs 3, 1O and 13.

On the basis of this resolution, the Global Psychology Alliance will collectively finalize a Roadmap 2023-2025 that itemizes specific outcome goals for SDGs 3, 10 and 13 to be undertaken as Alliance activities.

Bogota, Colombia
June 16, 2022