

Box 1 – Process of development of the MGMH Position Statement

The working draft of an MGMH position statement on mental health in the post-2015 agenda, developed by members of the MGMH Advisory Group, incorporated many of the themes and priorities discussed in this paper. The draft was posted on the MGMH website [15] and circulated via the membership email list, with an invitation for input from members. Comments and suggestions, received from 54 individual members and associations, were incorporated into a second draft. Suggested revisions included: emphasising the positive role mental health plays in supporting other development initiatives; the cross-sectoral relevance of mental health; highlighting inclusion, service user empowerment and human rights; recognising the impact of child abuse and gender violence; and specifically aligning the aims and implementation strategies with the NCD community, the WHO Mental Health Action Plan, and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

This draft was then presented at the 3rd MGMH Summit in Bangkok, Thailand, on August 22nd, 2013. [20] Input from members at the Summit was then incorporated into a final version (Additional file) circulated for use by members on the website and through email.

The foundation for a common position must represent the views of as many relevant stakeholders as possible. The World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) and MGMH collaborated in a survey of 500 civil society organisations, which resulted in 'The People's Charter for Mental Health'. [21] In the process of developing the MGMH Position Statement the responses from stakeholders concerning main priorities were surprisingly similar to those received during the development of the People's Charter, suggesting that the community of actors in global mental health have successfully united behind common themes for action. It is important to note, however, that those who respond to surveys are generally those who are already committed to the basic principles of the organisation seeking their opinion, and dissenting views may not have been captured. On the other hand, both WFMH and MGMH are deliberately broad-based organisations, and aim to include service users among their respective memberships.