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DISORDERS

In September 2014, another intensive 2-day meeting of the WHO International Advisory Group for ICD-11 Mental and Behavioural Disorders took place in Madrid. Yet another meeting had taken place in the run-up, again held in Madrid and attended by many persons who have been involved in this process for years, including employees, researchers, leaders of working groups, etc.

Rory asked me to write a brief report telling you about my current role and my input.

One part of my role is to follow as far as possible the evolutionary process of the ICD-11, and to read and understand the resultant outcomes with which the WHO management provides us, the WHO International Advisory Group for ICD-11 Mental and Behavioural Disorders, before the meeting.

One objective is to enable us to classify and integrate the presentations that follow at the meeting itself. The evolution of the ICD-11 is a protracted process involving numerous waystations.

However, my advance studies also serve to integrate new information into existing content structures, and to critically address current outcomes, particularly the Diagnostic Guidelines/Field Study Version, in the light of our social perspective, taking into account many social-science components.

Having intensively discussed many new details and diverse overviews and exchanged views with many delegates on subjects like the classification of illnesses and/or characteristics, I formulated after the meeting a comprehensive written feedback for those responsible at the WHO.

In my opinion, this part of my role is unique because I am aware that as the representative of the IFSW, my documents will be absorbed in the process, whatever the ultimate result may be.

In my feedback, I was repeatedly concerned e.g. with explaining terms, determinants/factors and social aspects in the context of mental health and mental disease, and with highlighting the meaning of a particular reformulation, a time limit, and of terms such as social functioning, social activities, social inadequacy, and impairment in the context of family, work, etc.

Let me emphasize once again that the ICD-11 is in process and will be in the future.

While the Madrid meeting was not a conclusion, it certainly was a big content milestone in the process, one reason being that so many inputs were presented in concentrated form, and that the ICD-11 is now increasingly assuming a concrete shape.

I am looking forward to your feedback.