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The Global Forum for Community Mental Health 1<sup>st</sup> Africa meeting held in Entebbe, Uganda, on 10-12 June 2008, has been attended by participants from the following African countries:

- Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

and has been organized on behalf of the Forum steering group by the following organizations:

- BasicNeeds, cbm, World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation, World Health Organization.

All the participants share the following considerations:

- It is time for African countries to move away from a mental health care system centered on few large isolated institutions towards a system centered on culturally appropriate community services available at local level, based on primary health care, social integration and consumers' empowerment, linked to all initiatives against poverty.
- Such move requires not only changes in health and welfare policies, increase and re-allocation of financial and human resources, strong input by World Health Organization, substantial modifications of professional attitudes and skills, utilization of evidence-based practices, but also the active mobilization of the civil society.

THEREFORE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION IS APPROVED:

- All the participants note with pleasure the emergence of a movement representing users, consumers and survivors of psychiatry continent-wide.
- All the participants agree to commit themselves and their organizations to make every effort to build in their countries a coalition aimed at pushing towards the development and implementation of the community-based model of mental health care, by identifying and addressing barriers that hinder such development, disseminating and promoting best practices, finding practical solutions to the emerging problems.
- All the participants agree that such coalition must be made by a network including all relevant stakeholders: users of mental health services and persons giving them psychosocial support; healthcare professionals; community leaders; local, regional and national government agencies, non-governmental organizations; public health agencies; traditional healers; spiritual leaders.