



Remarks by H.E. Mr. Bob Rae (Canada)
President of the Economic and Social Council
World Brain Day - "Brain Health for All Ages"
22 July 2025

It's my pleasure as the President of ECOSOC, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, to recognize the importance of World Brain Day.

Some people say that space is the last frontier, but actually I think that inner space is the real frontier. Understanding that there's so much about the brain that we still don't completely understand, that brain health is critically important, and the relationship between our brains and our minds remains one of the critical, not only philosophical, but practical questions of our day.



And it's very important for us to recognize that brain health affects people of all ages.

As the brain develops in young children, of course, it becomes critically important to support them, to support their learning, to support kids' ability to play but also enjoy growing up. In every phase of life, the health of the brain is a critical issue not only for our healthcare systems but for our social systems, for our family life, for all parts of everything that we do.

And it's my pleasure to recognize the incredible work of the neurological community around the world—people who are caring for people, psychiatrists and psychologists who are dealing with diseases and problems of the mind—those people who are looking at what happens to this all.



Let's be aid, and how aging itself becomes a question of care. We have to not only look at the importance of research, the importance of supporting the scientists who are doing critical work on the questions around the brain. We also have to recognize the wonderful work that caregivers provide to those whose brains aren't working so well, and who are facing tremendous problems as they age or as they've had accidents or other injuries or damage to the brain.

It's important for us to recognize, finally, that it is in fact the case that we spend a lot of time thinking about our physiological health—our physical health—and we don't spend enough time thinking about our mental health and how our mental health is connected to the health of our brains and of our minds.



And so, as I said, this is the real last frontier—the frontier in which we fully engage with understanding the importance of the mind, the importance of the brain, and the importance of this day.

Thank you so much for listening. Great to be with you.