**ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LEPROSY AFFECTED PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS**

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**BACKGROUND**

In its resolution A/HRC/29/5, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee to undertake a study which reviews the implementation of the Principles and Guidelines for the Elimination of Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy and their Family Members, together with the obstacles thereto, and to submit a report containing practical suggestions for their wider dissemination and more effective implementation and to submit a report at its thirty-fifth session.

The resolution also requests the Advisory Committee, in its elaboration of the report, to take into account the views of Member States and as appropriate relevant international organizations, including the World Health Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and relevant special procedures, national human rights institutions, and non-governmental organizations, as well as the work done on the issue by relevant United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes within their respective mandates.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to collect information from non-governmental organizations in order to identify the current state of implementation of the Principles and Guidelines for the Elimination of Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy and their Family Members (the Principles and Guidelines); how the Principles and Guidelines apply to different situations in different countries, especially the good practices that may be shared; and the major obstacles to implementation, including views on how best to further strengthen the implementation of the Principles and Guidelines.

**1.** Are you aware of the Principles and Guidelines for the Elimination of Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy and their Family Members adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2010(resolution 65/215)? If yes, how did it come to your attention?

* Yes for the reason that Ethiopian National Association of Persons Affected by leprosy (ENAPAL) is one of the organizations that closely working with Nippon Foundation and Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation for the successes full of the resolution as member of working group in Ethiopia.

**2.** What mechanism has the Government (Federal or State level) taken to disseminate the Principles and Guidelines to its citizens? e.g. translation into national and local languages; media; or any other mechanism?

* As far as I know there is no attempt by Federal/Regional government to take part in the translation and dissemination of the Principle and Guideline on Elimination of discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy and their family except the attempt of ENAPAL. But the government, particularly the Ministry of Labour and Social affairs dealing on the translation and familiarization of UNCRPDsat regional and federal level.

**3.** Have any policies, action plans or any other measures been taken at the national level to promote awareness-raising of the issue of discrimination against leprosy affected persons and their family members? Please provide details on measures taken.

* There is no particular polices and action plans employ to promote awareness raising to tackle stigma and discrimination as specific to leprosy but there is general policy of disability. So far promoting awareness raising mainly done by ENAPAL with specific support of **Ministry of Labour and Social affairs (MOLSA)** and **Ministry of Health** (MoH).

**4.** What measureshave been taken (Federal or State level) to modify, repeal or abolish discriminatory laws, policies or practices including terminating forced segregation in order to eliminate discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members? Is freedom to choose where to live ensured for persons affected by leprosy and their family members?

* Since the new constitution of Federal Republic of Ethiopian Government emerged some of discriminatory laws like leprosy could be the cause of divorce repealed and substituted by family law. Ethiopian code of law, which was used as civil and penal legislation provide legal provision of the annulment of the marriage. It cancel any marriage if the disease appear after marriage and leads to the breakdown of family.
* Of course there is no legal statement that denies a freedom of individual to choose his/her living place. But persons Affected by Leprosy and their families exercise different kind of stigma and discrimination from the communities due to misconception about leprosy.

**5.**Which is the terminology originally used in your native language in respect of persons affected by leprosy? Please also provide, aside from the specific terminology in your native language, a translation of it in English. Are there any popular myths associated with persons affected by leprosy? Please provide a short description.

* << Komatta which mean Leper>>
* There are a number of myths associated with persons affected by leprosy in different culture which degrade their personality.

Example: - Unless you warn a leper that he is leper he would like involve on your affair. (This is to indicate that persons affected by leprosy have to limitation).

**6.** Are those affected by leprosy and their family members being consulted with and/or actively participating in the decision-making processes that deal with matters related to them?

* These days, things are improved. Particularly ENAPAL at National level is participating with in decision making with different Government sectors.

**7**. What measures have been taken at the national level to ensure persons affected by leprosy enjoy fully and equally rights with others regarding the rights of citizenship; obtaining identity documents; the right to vote; the right to stand for elections; the right to serve the public in any capacity or other civil and political rights?

* Strong awareness at all level particularly on policy makers and higher government officials.
* Lobby the government to take the initiative to implement the principles and guideline.
* Implement sustainable integrated socioeconomic rehabilitation program to enhance the involvement of persons affected by leprosy and their family in the wider community that direct gave them power to break the vicious circle of poverty coupled with disability due to leprosy and stigma.
* Strengthen the prevention new cases and strengthen the referral system to prevent further disabilities due to leprosy and the consequence of leprosy.

**8.** What measures have been taken to ensure persons affected by leprosy enjoy equal rights with others with regard to the rights to work and education; establishing a family; access to public places, including hotels, restaurants; and buses, taxis, trains and other forms of public transport; access to cultural and recreational facilities; access to places of worship or any other economic, social and cultural rights?

* Strong awareness at all level particularly on policy makers and higher government officials.
* Lobby the government to take the initiative to implement the principles and guideline.
* Implement sustainable integrated socioeconomic rehabilitation program to enhance the involvement of persons affected by leprosy and their family in the wider community that direct gave them power to break the vicious circle of poverty coupled with disability due to leprosy and stigma.
* Aggressively work on leprosy affected persons and their family to develop self-esteemed.

**9**. What actions have been taken to promote and protect the human rights of (a) women; (b) children; (c) the elderly; (d) members of other vulnerable groups who have or have had leprosy, as well as their family members? (Please provide details).

* Implementing the convection and set strict follow-up mechanism for practicality.

**10**. What actions have been taken at the national level with regard to discriminatory, labelling and offensive languages directed at leprosy affected persons?

* Educating the right and appropriate positive words at school and media.

**11**. Have Governments drafted and/or adopted a national action plan to implement the Principles and Guidelines?Please attach a copy. Have you established a national committee? Please provide some details as to their mandate, size and composition of members.

* No.

**12.** What major obstacles, if any, have Governments faced in implementing the Principles and Guidelinesfor the eliminationof discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members?

* I don’t know may be lack of commitment and less attention to the issue of leprosy.

**13.**  In your view, what follow-up mechanisms should be put in place at the national and international levels to effectively implement the Principles and Guidelines?

* To materialize the effectiveness of the Principles and Guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members it is important be established responsible national follow-up committee.

**14**. Are there any concrete measures taken by Governments at different levels that you can share with us regarding actions taken to eliminate discrimination against leprosy affected persons and their family members in your country?

* As far as I know there is no concert measures taken by government particular to leprosy which I can share you. But I believe the government has to play its front line role & responsibility in order to put the resolution on the ground beyond signatory purpose.

**15**. Please provide identified cases of discrimination experienced by leprosy affected persons and their family members in your country, disaggregated by its different forms, including de facto discrimination.

* Social political and economic discrimination are manifested in one or different forms.