



البعثة الدبلوماسية للمملكة العربية السعودية
 لدى الامم المتحدة
 جنيف / فيينا

Geneva, 5th January 2016
 1/5 - 1 (NM)

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the United Nations Office and other international organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, and in reference to the the questionnaire that we received on 26 Nov 2015, entitled "The elimination of discrimination against leprosy affected people and their family members", kindly acknowledge that the Ministry of Labour and Social Development indicate that the Kingdom of Bahrain does not have any statistics or data for the disease referred to in the above-mentioned questionnaire, and apart from that the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain has the following text :

Article 5

c. The State guarantees the requisite social security for its citizens in old age, sickness, disability, orphanhood, widowhood or unemployment, and also provides them with social insurance and healthcare services. It strives to safeguard them against ignorance, fear and poverty.

Article 8

a. Every citizen is entitled to health care. The State cares for public health and the State ensures the means of prevention and treatment by establishing a variety of hospitals and healthcare institutions.

Article 13

a. Work is the duty of every citizen, is required by personal dignity and is dictated by the public good. Every citizen has the right to work and to choose the type of work within the bounds of public order and decency.

b. The State guarantees the provision of job opportunities for its citizens and the fairness of work conditions.

Article 18

People are equal in human dignity, and citizens are equal before the law in public rights and duties. There shall be no discrimination among them on the basis of sex, origin, language, religion or creed.

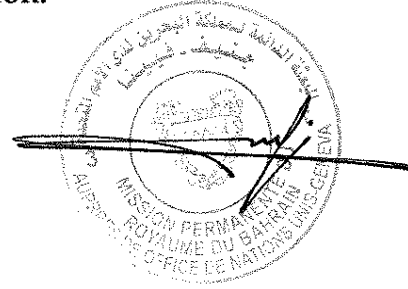
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البعثة الدبلوماسية
للديبلوماسية الاممية المتعددة
جنييف / فيينا

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva the assurances of its highest consideration.

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Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LEPROSY AFFECTED PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS**Questionnaire for STATES / NHRIs****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 leprosy affected persons 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 (NHRIs), and non-governmental organizations, as well as the work done on the issue by relevant United Nations bodies, funds and programmes within their respective mandates.

In this context, the Advisory Committee decided, at its fifteenth session held in August 2015, to establish a drafting group in charge of the preparation of this study.¹ The drafting group elaborated the hereunder questionnaire in order to seek the views and inputs of States and NHRIs. The purpose of this questionnaire is to collect information 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 what are the major obstacles to their 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 leprosy affected persons and their family members adopted by the United

¹ A/HRC/AC/15/L.3

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Nations General Assembly in December 2010 (resolution 65/215)? If yes, how did it come to your attention? If not, what are the reasons?

2. What mechanism has the Government put in place to disseminate the Principles and Guidelines to its citizens? e.g. translation into national and local languages; media; or any other mechanism?
3. Has the Government adopted any policies, action plans or taken any other measures to promote awareness-raising of the issue of discrimination against leprosy affected persons and their family members? If so, please provide details on measures taken.
4. What actions has your Government taken 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?
5. 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?
6. Do persons affected by leprosy enjoy the following rights fully and equally with others (please check where applicable): () citizenship; () obtaining identity documents; () right to vote; () right to stand for elections; () right to serve the public in any capacity; () others? please specify.
7. Do persons affected by leprosy enjoy equal rights with others with regard to (please check where applicable): () work; () 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; () others?
8. 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.
9. Has your Government drafted and/or adopted a national action plan to implement the Principles and Guidelines? If yes, please attach a copy. Has your Government established a national committee? If yes, please provide details as to its mandate, size and composition of its members.

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10. What major obstacles, if any, has your Government faced in implementing the Principles and Guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members?
11. In your view, what follow-up mechanisms should be put in place at the international level to effectively implement the Principles and Guidelines?
12. Are there any best-practices that you can share with us regarding actions taken to eliminate discrimination against leprosy affected persons and their family members?

Deadline for submission of responses:

All parties are encouraged to submit their responses via email or fax as soon as possible but no later than **30 December 2015** to:

hrcadvisorycommittee@ohchr.org

[Subject: HRCAC Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy]

or

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Thank you in advance for your contribution.

For more information about the Advisory Committee, please visit
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/AdvisoryCommittee/Pages/HRCACIndex.aspx>
