

Resolution of the Third Symposium on “Leprosy and Human Rights: Principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members”

18 September 2013

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The Third Regional Symposium on “Leprosy and Human Rights: Principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members”;

Recalling General Assembly resolution A/RES/65/215 of 21 December 2010 and “Principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members” (P&G);

Recalling also, Human Rights Council resolutions 8/13 of 18 June 2008, 12/7 of 1 October 2009 and 15/10 of 30 September 2010;

Recalling the World Health Assembly Resolution WHA 58.23/2005 on Disability, Including Prevention, Management and Rehabilitation, and the WHO Regional Committee of Africa Resolution AFR/RC44/R5 in 1994 and the achievements of all African countries in eliminating leprosy in 2005.

Reaffirming the resolution of the First Regional Symposium held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 1 February 2012, which established the International Working Group (IWG) consisting of the representatives of persons affected by leprosy and their family members, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), concerned NGOs, academics and governments;

Reaffirming also, the resolution of the Second Regional Symposium held in Delhi, India, on 4 October 2012; which focused on persons affected by leprosy and their family members in Asia;

Welcoming with appreciation the opening statement of His Excellency Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, chair of the African Union which affirmed Ethiopia’s commitment, and that of the African Union to work for a continent free of leprosy and of stigma and discrimination as well as the full implementation of the P&G;

Having considered presentations and reports of major stakeholders during Third Regional Symposium, on the situation of leprosy affected people in the African continent, and how various stakeholders have addressed the challenges of stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members in accordance with the P&G;

Welcomes the proposals based on the African experience on how the P&G can be most effectively and expeditiously carried out;

Approves the recommendations of the Third Regional Symposium aimed at implementation of the P&G;

Invites the African States to adopt concrete initiatives to implement the P&G, and to engage the mechanisms of the African Union in this regard, with the technical support of the World Health Organisation.

Urges all African States and stakeholders to utilize various human rights mechanisms, including NHRIs to follow up on the implementation of P&G by all stakeholders reflecting the views expressed in the three Symposia;

Appreciates the efforts and fruitful contributions made by the IWG, in working on a model plan of action to be utilized by States in their national plans to combat stigma and discrimination.