



***Human Rights Council – 41st Session  
Item 3. – Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur  
on Leprosy***

***Statement by M. Hervé Arot,  
Principal Representative of Fondation CIOMAL  
(Campagne Internationale de l'Ordre de Malte contre la Lèpre)***

***Geneva, 24 June 2019***

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

For 60 years, The Sovereign Order of Malta's Fondation CIOMAL, has been involved in fighting leprosy, on various continents, providing health services and fostering social and economic inclusion.

Fondation CIOMAL and the Sovereign Order of Malta therefore fully support the recommendations set forth by the Special Rapporteur in her report on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy, in particular women and children.

On the health care side, prophylaxis, early detection and awareness raising must be intensified.

The fight against leprosy is not limited to the detection of new cases, but does involve monitoring the persons affected by leprosy throughout their entire life. Still millions of people, including children, suffer from long term disabilities and are not properly counted in the national data.

Institutionalized discrimination persists in State administrations, which nevertheless should be exemplary. It is based on stereotypes and often harmful traditional beliefs, which need to be tackled through capacity building.

All States should also ensure to the leprosy-affected persons and their families, education, health, food, employment, housing, transport, safety, social security, child protection, among others, and non-discrimination as fundamental social rights.

None of these goals are achievable by the States without adequate financial planning, efficient use of public resources and, when needed, complementary funding from the international community.



**ORDRE DE MALTE**  
**SUISSE**  
**FONDATION CIOMAL**

Finally, Fondation CIOMAL calls upon all States to implement in their national laws the Principles and Guidelines for the Elimination of Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy and their Family Members, approved by the General Assembly in 2010, taking special care of women and children.

Thank you for your attention.