



SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER
OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

***Human Rights Council – 50th Session –
Item 3.- Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Leprosy***

***Statement by Ms Marie-Axelle Annicchiarico,
Main Representative of the Sovereign Order of Malta's Leprosy
CIOMAL Foundation***

Geneva, 17th June 2022

Mister President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

The CIOMAL Foundation and the Sovereign Order of Malta strongly support the recommendations contained in the report by the Special Rapporteur to this 50th session of the Human Rights Council.

Despite most of the States' commitment to provide proper access to health facilities to persons affected by leprosy and their family members, it is imperfectly and sometimes hardly implemented.

Thus, the time is ripe for structuring an adequate planning at state level in order to remedy this situation. The expected planning objectives and their related key execution indicators must be realistic, financially sustainable and relying on sufficient human resources.

Planning must be set by public health and finance authorities but after conferring with the associations of persons affected by leprosy, representatives of local NGOs and members of the communities especially where the incidence of the disease is significant, undetected or affecting children.

States are encouraged to set up a permanent advisory council where delegates of persons affected by leprosy or neglected tropical diseases should be included and empowered.

Thank you for your attention.