



Fédération Internationale des Associations contre la Lèpre  
International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations

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## 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ILEP Technical Commission (Teleconference)

6<sup>th</sup> October, 2009

ILEP/London

### MINUTES

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**In the Chair:** Professor Cairns Smith (CS) and Professor Diana Lockwood (DL)

**Present:** Dr Hugh Cross (HC), Dr Sunil Deepak (SD), Dr Augustin Guédénon (AG), Professor Diana Lockwood (DL), Dr Paul Saunderson (PS), Dr Wim van Brakel (WvB), Dr Etienne Declercq (ED)

**Secretariat:** Mr Douglas Soutar (DS), Secretary, ITC  
Dr Lenka Nahodilova (LN), Technical and Information Coordinator  
Andrew Clark, Assistant General Secretary (AC)

#### 1. Approval of Agenda

The Chair welcomed everyone to the teleconference of the 14<sup>th</sup> ITC Meeting.

*The agenda was approved.*

#### 2. Matters arising from previous ITC meeting

PS referred to comments he made on the Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> ITC Meeting regarding Toolkits of QI. PS suggested that exit interviews can't be replaced by completion rate. It had been agreed that his comments on QI should be included into the Minutes of the previous ITC meeting.

*Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> ITC meeting were approved.*

#### 3. Updates on Plan of Work

The plan had been agreed at the end of 2008. An updated version from March 2009 was included in the ITC Meeting documentation.

##### 3.1. Implementation

##### 3.1.1. Training

DS noted that a draft had just been received from NLR of a Training/Capacity Development strategy which was being developed jointly between WHO and ILEP to accompany the Enhanced Global Strategy.

DL noted that due to the economic crisis ALERT is experiencing funding problems and is losing good clinical staff.

ED was expected to give a verbal report on WHO meetings on training, but due to technical problems ED could not present the report to the group via the teleconference. His report was submitted by email as follows:

'Here is the information received from WHO concerning the Workshops for Health Service Managers in charge of Leprosy control Programmes held in 2009. There have been three international workshops held in 2009 :

1. Eastern Mediterranean Region: Feb 2009 in Taiz, Yemen.
2. Western Pacific Region: June 2009, Shanghai, China
3. South East Asia Region: June 2009, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

In addition to that, there has been one national workshop organized in Kisangani, DR Congo, in June-July, for medical officers and supervisors working at provincial level : some 15 participants for 5 days. It followed very closely the scheme of the WHO workshop, but some exercises were adapted to the local situation, and more emphasis was put on PoD and self-care. Facilitators were from the national level, WHO, Damien Foundation and TLMI. Another session is foreseen in 2010.'

The Chair also had technical problems in keeping contact with the rest of the group via Skype and so DL took over chairing of the meeting.

### **3.1.2 POD activities**

HC has carried out a survey of 24 countries on their implementation of POD. Some country national managers are often reluctant to provide data or have it published. It was suggested that HC should find out why some countries did not have an action plan on POD implementation.

*It was suggested that HC should continue to write up a report without making reference to specific countries or that it should be submitted to Leprosy Review as a letter, as a referential source.*

### **3.1. Toolkits on indicators of quality**

- 3** PS has been working with LN on toolkits on QI to develop a more coherent document.

*PS and LN will work together to finalize the toolkit for measuring the quality of leprosy services.*

### **3.2. Research and Development**

- 3.2.1** CS reported that an initial review had been carried out by a student in Aberdeen and findings allocated to ITC members to review. Summaries for the literature review should be ready by the end of the year 2009, with collation by the end of January 2010. DL will provide a template methodology for assessing papers. Individual ITC members reported that Work is on schedule. SD is in touch with LN regarding his part of the review.

*It was agreed that an ILEP Technical Forum and a full meeting of the ILEP ITC will take place on 24-25<sup>th</sup> March 2010. Each of the meetings one day. The Technical Forum will take place before the ITC meeting in order to ensure that the information can be fed back to the ITC.*

**3.2.2. Nerve Damage and Reactions**

A brief update on current and recent studies was given by DL including an interesting development of research methods in nerve damage using ultrasound.

WvB reported that the last year's proposal on research in nerve damage and reactions have been resubmitted to NLR, DAHW, ALM.

**3. Issues Related to Stigma**

**3.3.1. Temporary Expert Group**

WvB reported that the sub groups of this TEG had been slow to get going on their specific tasks but he was hopeful that a draft of their findings would be available in a report by February. This would be followed up with a larger workshop possibly in May 2010 with participants from various fields, including journalists, illustrators, people affected by leprosy and other diseases. NLR have indicated support for this.

**4. Enhanced Global Strategy**

The WHO EGS and OGs have been finalized and the next step will be promotion of those in various regions. There is WHO regional meeting planned in AFRO probably in Brazzaville in April 2010.

Two major WHO meetings coming up:

- Workshop on Drug surveillance in Paris 26-27 October
- WHO Informal Consultation on monitoring G2D rate and Applicability of Chemoprophylaxis London, 12-13 November, 2009. ILEP is hosting this.

SD reported that the WHO CBR Guidelines had been further delayed and were now expected to be launched in June 2010. Work already done on a leprosy chapter had been accepted but other sections are still being worked on.

PS noted that he was disappointed that the final OGs have not included more indicators of quality of leprosy service.

**5. Commentary on Global data 2008**

The annual ILEP report should be ready in three weeks. So far it includes the WHO WER data with the comments from ED and data generated from ILEP Project reports is currently being incorporated.

ED reported to the group via e-mail on the WER global data. He

suggested changes in measured categories which would allow indicating quality of leprosy services. He pointed out that timely detection seems to be a problem in a number of countries which doesn't correspond with the EGS on quality of service.

ILEP Secretariat will complete the Annual Report and circulate this to members.

#### 6. **Next Meetings**

The date of the next ITC Meeting was discussed. The next full ITC Meeting will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

#### **Key Decisions and Action Points**

- The ITC literature review will be finalized before March 2010 Technical Forum.
- DL to circulate the template
- TEG on stigma will organize a larger workshop in May 2010.
- ILEP Annual Report will be completed by November 2009.

#### Document distribution:

Board  
ITC  
ILEP representatives

#### Acronyms used in this report:

AFRO WHO African Regional Office  
 CBR Community Based Rehabilitation  
 DAHW Deutsche Lepra- und Tuberkulosehilfe  
 DFB Damien Foundation Belgium  
 EGS Enhanced Global Strategy for Further Reducing the Disease Burden Due to Leprosy, plan period 2011-2015.  
 IDEAL Initiative for Diagnostic and Epidemiological Assays for Leprosy  
 ILEP Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations  
 ITC ILEP Technical Commission  
 NLR Netherlands Leprosy Relief  
 OGs Global Operational Guidelines  
 POD Prevention of Disability

ALM American Leprosy Mission  
 TEG Technical Expert Group  
 TF Technical Forum  
 QI Quality Indicators  
 WHO World Health Organization