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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Association pour l'Intégration et le Développement Durable au Burundi, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[24 May 2023]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Leprosy in India and Lack of Health Care

Resolution 29/5, adopted by the Human Rights Council in June 2015, aims at intensifying efforts to eliminate all forms of prejudice and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, and to promote policies that facilitate their inclusion and participation. But country like India where even in 21 century, the persons affected by leprosy and their family members are facing many forms of prejudice and discrimination and the Indian government failed to provide awareness about leprosy. At present, India has the highest number of leprosy cases in the world. India's national human rights commission identified dozens of laws in the country that discriminate against leprosy-affected persons. In India, there are many myths and misconceptions exists about leprosy. Lack of awareness about leprosy is a principal driver of fears about the disease, which leads to discriminatory practices against persons affected by leprosy in India. India has more than seven million people with deformities caused by leprosy. They are relegated to the margins of society and feel neglected and unwanted, living mostly in 750-odd leprosy colonies. Society largely treats them as social outcasts. 25-year-old women named R.K. from Bihar state of India was diagnosed with leprosy. Her family disowned her and asked her to leave home. Similarly, a 35-year-old man named V. from Jharkhand, India, was banished from his village and now lives in a leprosy colony with his family. The other members of his family who do not have leprosy also face discrimination. Leprosy is making a comeback in India, but the government wants to deny It. Under pressure to eliminate leprosy, the government is unwilling to record new cases. Social stigma and failure to detect cases early are hurdles in eradicating the disease. We urge this council to ask the Indian government to detect leprosy cases immediately and also stop discrimination against leprosy patients.
