LESOTHO NATIONAL FEDERATION OF ORGANISATIONS OF THE DISABLED (LNFOD)

Questionnaire on the right of persons with disabilities to participation in decision-

Making

Questions for civil society (English):

**1. Please provide information on the legislative and policy framework in place in**

**Your country related to the status, establishment, resourcing, and functioning of**

**Representative organizations of persons with disabilities at the national, regional**

**And local levels;**

In Lesotho, Disabled peoples’ organisations are legally registered under the societies’ act of 1966. This is the act of Parliament under which all civil society organisations are registered in Lesotho. Disabled peoples’ organisations are receiving public funding from the government through the ministry of Social Development. However, the fund is too small to enable meaningful participation of people with disabilities. Hence, organisations of persons with disabilities are not capacitated enough to represent the rights of people with disabilities in the decision making processes from the local, and national level. Lesotho has adopted National disability and rehabilitation policy in 2011 which envisaged the intention of the government of Lesotho to domesticate UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities through an act of parliament. Nevertheless, the National disability and rehabilitation policy 2011 was never implemented till to date and without any explanation to the representative organisations of persons with disabilities.

**2. Please provide information on existing legislation and policies aimed at ensuring**

**That persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including**

**Children with disabilities, are consulted and involved in decision-making**

**Processes that directly or indirectly concern them;**

 National disability and rehabilitation policy 2011 calls for the consultation of the representative organisations of persons with disabilities in the decision making processes affecting their lives in implicit terms because it does not establish a council or body through which people with disabilities can be consulted. Section 20 of the Constitution of Lesotho provide for the right to participate in the government. DPOS use this section to advocate for the public participation of persons with disabilities in the decision making processes of the local and central government. However, there is no disability specific legislation which guarantees the involvement of people with disabilities in the decision making processes of the government. Even though, the UN Convention on the rights of the child has been domesticated through Children’s welfare and protection act 2011, and the establishment of the children’s court is most welcome, but, children with disabilities participation in these structures is not ensured because the regulations of the act and the children’s court is not accessible in terms of reasonable accommodation.

**3. Please provide information on any consultative body or mechanism established to**

**Consult and engage with representative organizations of persons with disabilities,**

**Including information about their composition, criteria for membership**

In Lesotho, there is no such mechanism established to consult with the representative organisations of persons with disabilities. Currently, the Lesotho national federation of organisations of the disabled LNFOD) umbrella body of organisations of persons with disabilities is advocating for the passing of disability equity act by the parliament. One of the structures envisaged by the proposed act is the establishment of disability rights council which will ensure the participation and involvement of people with disabilities in the decision making processes affecting their lives.

(Nomination, appointment, election, etc.) And functioning;

**4. Please provide information on the efforts undertaken at national, regional and/or**

**Local levels to strengthen the capacity of representative organizations of persons**

**With disabilities, in order to facilitate their participation in legislative, policy and**

**Other decision-making processes;**

LNFOD is affiliated to the Southern Africa Federation of the disabled (SAFOD) A a regional representative federation of national federations in the southern African region.

LNFOD does not have the financial support to represent persons with disabilities at the state party conference held annually in New York.

LNFOD is sourcing funding abroad to finance activities towards the development capacity of the disabled peoples’ organisations in Lesotho. E.g. Norwegian association of the disabled, European Union, Open society initiative for Southern Africa are the partners of LNFOD in disability rights promotion. However, it should be noted that, the government does not promote the participation and capacity building of the representative organisations except the allocation of very little funding to the DPOS.

**5. Please explain whether and how persons with disabilities participate in monitoring**

**The implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons**

**With Disabilities (art. 33, para. 3), and in the nomination of experts to the**

**Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (art. 34, para. 3);**

People with disabilities from Lesotho do not participate in the nomination of the experts of the committee of the CRPD, because LNFOD is not aware of the process followed in the nomination of these experts. Secondly, there is no government agency assigned to monitor the implementation of the CRPD, However, LNFOD and its affiliates have established an advocacy task team towards the monitoring of the implementation of the CRPD.

**6. Please identify the main challenges faced by the diversity of persons with**

**Disabilities in participating in mainstream and disability-specific decision-making**

**Processes at the national, regional and local levels, including challenges faced by**

**Persons who experience multiple discrimination (e.g., on the basis of disability,**

People with disabilities experience serious inequalities in terms of access to education, employment job opportunities and healthcare services, public participation and access to justice.

There is no disability grant provided even though the government adopted the social protection strategy which provides that people with disabilities shall be provided a disability grant.

The social protection does not provide a criterion to be used when identifying those who are eligible for the grant.

Unemployment is very high among people with disabilities.

Women with disabilities suffer double discrimination because they are women and they have disability.

The deafblind community is completely marginalised because the DPOS do not have the capacity to deal with the deafblind related issues. Lack of disability rights legislation hamper the protection and promotion of disability rights.

More women lack self confidence in disability rights advocacy than men with disabilities.

Age, gender, ethnic origin, geographical location).

**7. Please provide information on the existence of organizations of persons with**

**Disabilities in your country, including organizations of children and women with**

**Disabilities, as well as their composition and internal decision-making processes**

**And procedures;**

**8. Please identify the main challenges faced by the diversity of persons with**

**Disabilities as members of mainstream or disability-specific non-governmental**

**Organizations, and in participating in the activities of such organizations,**

**Including challenges faced by persons who experience multiple discrimination.**

Established in 1989, the Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD) is an umbrella body of organisations dealing with disability in Lesotho.
LNFOD's Vision: A Basotho society that is accessible and inclusive of all people that live in it, and that enables and empowers people with disabilities to enjoy their social, economic, political and human rights on equal basis with others, and to reach their full potential in all aspects of development.
Its mission is to advocate for, promote, and defend the rights of people with disabilities and their families through provision of training, material and emotional support, and by representing their needs to government, development partners and the wider community.
Its membership consists of the Lesotho National Association of Physically Disabled (LNAPD), Intellectual Disability Association of Lesotho (IDAL), and Lesotho National League of the Visually Impaired Persons (LNLVIP) and National Association of the Deaf in Lesotho (NADL)

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