

## Charter

**A. Purpose :** The Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy is an association of organizations and individuals committed to ending leprosy, also known as Hansen’s disease. The purpose of the partnership is to facilitate alignment of the leprosy community and to accelerate effective collaborative action toward the goal of zero leprosy.

**B. Vision:** Zero Leprosy: no disease, no disability, no discrimination/stigma.

### C. Principles

- All decisions, priority choices, funding allocation and actions will support the vision of Zero Leprosy. Partners will align their work around shared priorities to the greatest extent feasible.
- The partnership will be guided by evidence and reinforced by sharing experiences and practices.
- The partnership will coordinate action among leprosy stakeholders and seek to minimize duplication of efforts among stakeholders.
- Zero Leprosy includes addressing the issues of stigma and discrimination of persons affected by leprosy, their families, and their communities.
- The partnership recognizes and supports the ownership of national leprosy programs by national governments and includes national programs in its leadership and decision-making.
- The partnership endorses the full participation of persons affected by leprosy, including representation on the leadership team and involvement in workgroups and committees.

### D. Operating Framework

The Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy will operate according to five documents:

- The Charter, which sets forth the policies and procedures for governance.
- The Action Framework, which outlines, over the long term, the agreed-upon methods for moving to Zero Leprosy
- The Strategic Plan, which sets forth major objectives and outcomes over a particular timeframe.
- The annual Strategic Outline and Work Plan, which lay out the tasks, timelines and persons responsible for accomplishing the outcomes of the Strategic Plan.

### E. Organizational Components

The partnership has four organizational components: (1) leadership team (2) secretariat (3) membership (partners and affiliates) and (4) working groups.

## 1. Leadership Team

### Responsibilities:

- Strategic direction and alignment for the partnership, including a multi-year strategic plan.
- Oversight, support, and guidance to the secretariat to ensure it meets the objectives of the partnership's strategic plan.
- Workgroup establishment and oversight; active engagement in one or more workgroups
- Advocacy and engagement with key stakeholders per the strategic plan and defined in annual work plans

### Meetings and Updates:

The Leadership Team will meet in person twice annually. To ensure cost-effectiveness, most in-person meetings will be linked with ILEP CEO meetings. For all other months, the Leadership Team will meet via teleconference, usually the first Wednesday of the month. Decisions will be recorded in the meeting notes and made publicly available. The Leadership Team will receive a weekly update from the Secretariat, for which guidance and decisions may also be solicited.

### Members

The leadership team reflects the diversity of stakeholders engaged in zero leprosy:

- International Leprosy Association
- International Association for Integration, Dignity, and Economic Advancement (IDEA)
- International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP)
- Novartis Foundation
- Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation
- WHO Global Leprosy Program (observer)
- UN Special Rapporteur (observer)
- National Leprosy program managers (3 representatives)
- Representative of the scientific community
- Leprosy Research Initiative
- General member from a partner organization
- General member who is an affiliate

*Global representatives:* Each global organization will appoint its own representative, through a formal letter to the Secretariat, renewable every two years.

*Scientific representative:* The scientific representative will be self-nominated. Candidates will be reviewed by the leadership team and selected for a term of two years, renewable once.

*National leprosy program managers (3):* The three national leprosy program managers will be self-nominated. Candidates will be reviewed by the leadership team and selected for a term of two years, renewable once. The Leadership Team will take into consideration geographic and gender representation and representation from countries with the highest burden of leprosy.

*Chair:* The chair will be an internationally-respected person in leprosy or public health who serves on this board in his/her own capacity, not as a representative of his/her organization. The Chair will be self-nominated. Candidates will be reviewed by the leadership team and selected for a term of two years, renewable once.

*Additional members and alternates:* The leadership team, through a formal vote, may nominate additional persons to serve on the team, with terms of two years, renewable once. Nominations should be clearly linked to organizational goals and objectives. Each organization may name an alternate if the designated representative is not available. One additional participant from each organization may join Leadership Team meetings; only one individual from each organization (except Observers, who do not vote) may vote.

*General Representatives:* one representatives of a partner group (3.1, below) and one representative of the affiliates (3.2, below) will be elected for a term of two years, renewable once. These positions will be self-nominated. The Secretariat will facilitate a process in which candidates will be reviewed and voted upon by their respective groups (partners, affiliates) to select a general representative of each group.

Decision-making. Decision-making, in general, will be by consensus. In the event that a vote is required, each organization or stakeholder group represented, whether as a “standing” or “rotating” member, will have one vote. All notes and records of the leadership team’s deliberations will be coordinated by the secretariat, and a record of decisions will be made available to members in a timely manner.

## **2. Secretariat**

A secretariat will support the work of the partnership, its leadership team and working groups. Responsibilities of the secretariat are detailed in its Strategic Outline and annual Work Plan. They include:

- Support Leadership Team governance including meetings, teleconferences, policy discussions and votes.
- Document processes and functions of the partnership and facilitate its management.
- Provide frequent, coordinated communications to partnership members and affiliates, as well as to external partners.
- Advance and coordinate fundraising for the partnership and for ongoing secretariat functions, in close collaboration with the fundraising and advocacy workgroup.
- Actively engage with working groups to ensure that key deliverables and milestones are met and that communication and outreach with the LT, other working groups and stakeholders and members is transparent, equitable and consistent
- Liaise with Uniting to Combat NTDs, other NTD and disability groups and reference centers, and other relevant infectious disease communities in global health.

### 3. Members

Membership is open to organizations and individuals committed to zero leprosy and supporting the principles, objectives, and activities of the Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy. Membership categories include:

*3.1 Partners:* organizations working in leprosy research, program implementation, policy, clinical care, advocacy, human rights, funding or other fields. Partners are asked to support the Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy's mission and key objectives, to share logos and link websites, to participate in working groups and meetings (as feasible) and to provide feedback to policy, partnership and implementation issues.

*3.2 Affiliates:* persons with an interest in leprosy (including affected persons and their families) and/or working in leprosy research, national or local programs, policy, clinical care, advocacy, human rights, funding or other fields. Affiliates are asked to support the Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy's mission and key objectives, to provide feedback and/or participate in working groups and meetings (as feasible).

### 4. Working groups

Working groups may be created by the Leadership Team to address specific priority areas. The membership and terms of reference for these groups will be approved by the leadership team and they will be accountable to the Leadership Team.

### F. Review

This charter will be reviewed and revised by the leadership team by March 31, 2019 and thereafter every two years, or as necessary.

*Approved by the GPZL Leadership Team March 22, 2019*