**Position paper - Hoang Nam Anh Quach - Citadel High School**

***SSUNS* indigenous affairs - 2016**

**World Health Organization**

**Kingdom of Lesotho**

The issues before the Kingdom of Lesotho:

1. Non-Communicable Disease (NCDs)
2. Global Pharmaceutical Development and Universal Access to Medication
3. Gender Based Inequities in Global Health

*I. Non-Communicable Disease*

After our independence from the United Kingdom in 1966, our government has made many developments in different fields such as Defense, Economy, Education and Health. Although Lesotho made some achievements in health system, we still have to deal with the biggest problem that is Non-Communicable Disease. Because of our low awareness, many workers in several mines, and the outback zone which outreach of the government, lack of transportation and equipment for Department of Health to supply medical care for every citizens. Considering NCDs a threat for Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs), the government of Lesotho is expecting for the role of High-Income Countries (HICs) in addressing the prevention and control of NCDs. As a low income country, Lesotho government, especially our Department of Health still have under-resource facilities and low-quality system to treat long-term NCDs. Because of that reason, the Lesotho government is seeking for fund and help from other countries and organizations. Because our citizens do not have annual medical care, and we do not have enough therapeutically treatments against the NCDs, Lesotho is on the the top rate countries with people live with HIV/AIDS. Due to research of many international organization (WHO, non-government organization,...) the few past years, we are fully aware that the most cost-effective and easiest way to face this problem is raise citizens awareness about the NCDs, banning tobacco and upgrading our medical facilities and medical care will be invest by our government.

Therefore, the Kingdom of Lesotho:

1. Request for help in funding, medical technique and facilities and also need international help to prevent new NCDs, also cure NCDs patients in our country.
2. Calls up for more research to give the final solution against the NCDs and more activities to raise our citizens awareness.
3. Encourages HICs to prove their role in the campaign against the NCDs and share the responsibility with the LMICs’ Government.

*II.Global Pharmaceutical Development and Universal Access to Medication*

One of the aim of the UN’s Millennium Development Goals is to have access to essential medications for every single people over the world because pharmaceuticals can determine quality of life and if or when someone die, especially when they are fighting against NCDs. But currently due to “tariff and patents laws” the medication prices are high to LMICs which make treatments unaffordable for our people to reach the pharmaceutical treatment. Any therapeutically treatment need medicine to success, but the price of the medicines is the challenge for patients. Study[[1]](#footnote-1) say that over 90% of the world pharmaceutical market is produced in HICs and provided by private corporations. And although many Agreements and Declarations have been signed, global pharmaceutical research have been developed, the world pharmaceutical market still seem to be unfair to the LMICs, which makes our government deeply concerns. As a human's right, every single citizen of our country have the right to have medicines and treatment. One of Government of Lesotho mainly Strategic Priority is to improve health sector partnerships advocacy and equity. Third Annual Pharmacy Research Conference held in Zambia (25 July 2016) took into consideration that every WHO’s members should have responsibility to upgrade the world pharmacy network to supply medications to LMICs, as part of the Access to Medicines 2030 agenda. Our government plan now is to strengthen family and community health, including sexual and reproductive health which really need modern and vital medicines. Recently Lesotho Government is talking about adjusting the policies and law of import for international company to provide us pharmaceutical and get our people access to standard medication.

The Kingdom of Lesotho, therefore:

1. Recommends governments and the WHO must work together to minimize unnecessary add-on costs and should not impose revenue-raising charges on essential items such as medicines.
2. Expects for the cooperative from the international organization and foundations to decrease the price but make the medicines more effective.
3. Encourages the supply chain of medication and the provision of pharmaceutical products over the world, especially to LMICs.

*III. Gender Based Inequities in Global Health*

In global health, gender roles are defined as being “socially constructed roles, expectations a given society considers appropriate for men and women”.[[2]](#footnote-2) Although the world is being more and more modern and the revolution of technology day by day, there still be outdated believes between two genders, which make the health provide difficult, especially in LMICs. For example, the overall life expectancy at birth of the world in the last decade shows that parents expect for males than females. Lesotho government believe that genders play important role in annual medication and health care programmes. Our point of view is clearly that economic, political, biological, social factors such as genders based and international cooperative should go together to provide health care for every single human on this earth. Health care for men different from women because physiological differences between two genders also contribute to health disparities. For example, males generally have greater height and weight, or later sexual maturity than women. Men also have a higher rate of suicide than women. But women have to faces with different problem. In our country, die during pregnancy and childbirth is one of the main reasons cause to our woman's death. Deeply concerned that Lesotho also have to face with these problems. Guided by WHO and other departments, organizations’ researches, we realize that we have to treat different ways two different genders, but we still have to keep the equity between males and females. Our government is planning to update our country policies to prevent death of our people and update our citizens life. As a African country and we still fighting with the modernization problems, our government can not provide annual advisory or care to every of our citizens. And low-incomes of our citizens is one of the reason they have low- quality health care. Although that, our government plans are working and we are looking for the soon positive results.

The Kingdom of Lesotho, therefore:

1. Welcoming to every countries or organizations which can advice and give experiences to our government, especially to our Health Department.
2. Suggest for more Declarations and international-research to show more possible solution against health inequities problems, so that improve poorer health outcome for men and women.

My references:

Lesotho: Country Cooperation Strategy <http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation_strategy/ccsbrief_lso_en.pdf>

Lesotho Information from CIA Factbook <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/lt.html>

Third Annual Pharmacy Research Conference

<http://www.afro.who.int/en/zambia/press-materials/item/8849-third-annual-pharmacy-research-conference-held-in-zambia.html>

World medication supply:

<http://www.yellowpages.co.ls/results/category/Medical%20Supplies>

<http://apps.who.int/medicinesdocs/documents/s16764e/s16764e.pdf>>

<http://www.worldlifeexpectancy.com/>

Life expectancy of Lesotho <http://www.worldlifeexpectancy.com/>

World rate of HIV/AIDS patients <http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/campaigns/2014/2014gapreport/gapreport>

Guide for WHO

1. WHO Medications Strategy. Country at the core 2004-2007. Geneva: WHO; 2004. p.12 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Barker G., Ricardo C., Nascimento M. (2007) Evidence from programme interventions. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)