

**Statement to the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of  
Persons with Disabilities, by the Africa Albinism Network**

**16th session in New York from 13 to 15 June; 2023**

The Africa Albinism Network which includes Under the Same Sun and over 200 albinism groups across Africa, draws your attention to the challenges faced by persons with albinism in Africa, particularly the ongoing attacks and killings they face. As an underrepresented constituency of people with disabilities, persons with albinism continue to have their right to life, security of person, and socio-economic rights including education, health, and employment violated.

In countries with high UVA exposure due to climate change, people with albinism continue to die from preventable deaths to skin cancer. Close to 80 percent of people with albinism contend with skin cancer by age 40. Affected Member States need to take concrete and immediate actions including listing sunscreen as an essential medicine or as an assistive device for people with albinism.

Countries with records of attacks should immediately ratify the Africa Disability [Protocol](#) which includes protection against harmful practices while implementing the Human Rights' Council [resolution](#) on elimination of harmful practices related to accusations of witchcraft and ritual attacks and the [Pan African Parliament](#) guidelines for combatting harmful practices in the Africa region – adopted a few months ago.

Finally, we call for concrete action to protect people with albinism through implementation of the African Union [Plan of Action](#) on albinism. We congratulate the governments of Uganda for recently adopting this plan and call on others to do the same. We call on development partners to include persons with albinism in their work on climate change and protection of groups in vulnerable situations.

Thank you.