

## **Africa Albinism Network - Response to the Report of the IE on Albinism at the 55th Session of the Human Rights Council, March 2024**

The Africa Albinism Network and Under the Same Sun, which collectively work with over 200 albinism groups across Africa, welcome the report of the Independent Expert on Albinism.

Across the continent, persons with albinism face unique challenges that hinder their access to quality education, perpetuating a cycle of exclusion and limiting their full participation in society. These also include inadequate infrastructure and significant attitudinal barriers that translate into normalized name calling and bullying. These often lead to psychosocial challenges and school dropouts. One statistic from Namibia put the dropout rate of school-aged children with albinism at around 40 percent.

There are multiple levels of discrimination a person with albinism goes through to have an education. Even walking on the streets to school requires such a level of courage from children that many are not able to make it. Fear of physical harassment, relentless name-calling, the potential of violence and intense sun exposure made worse by ongoing climate change, all compound the barriers to education for people with albinism in the region.

It is for this reason that we call upon member states in developing countries, particularly in Africa where we work, to adhere to and implement the recommendations outlined in paragraph 86 of the current report. We also urge them to adopt and implement the AU Plan of Action on Albinism in Africa. We further encourage member states of the AU to ratify the Africa Disability Protocol.

Thank you.