

## **Africa Albinism Network - Response to the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Context of Climate Change at the 56<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, June 2024**

The Africa Albinism Network on behalf of Under The Same Sun and over 200 albinism groups across Africa welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change. The current report – Corporate accountability in the context of human rights and climate change, underscores the urgent need for businesses to align their operations with ethical and sustainable practices, reflecting a broader commitment to social and environmental responsibility.

Persons with albinism in Africa, face significant challenges including social stigma, discrimination, physical attacks and limited access to healthcare and education.<sup>1</sup> Climate change exacerbate these challenges with rising temperatures and erratic weather patterns posing severe risks to their health and well-being.<sup>2</sup>

In Africa, it is estimated that persons with albinism are up to 1,000 times more likely to develop skin cancer, compared with the general population. As a result, approximately 90% of persons with albinism in the region die of skin cancer due to constant exposure to heat waves and intense UV radiation. Even children as young as one year old show visible signs of skin damage due to these climate change-induced challenges.<sup>3</sup>

We call on all member states of the UN particularly the African governments to adhere to and implement the recommendations outlined in this current report and the report by the UN Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism on the Impact of climate change on persons with albinism.

We urge business corporations to take proactive steps to identify, prevent, mitigate and address adverse impacts of climate change especially on vulnerable groups including persons with albinism in Africa. We call on the World Health Organisation to

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<sup>1</sup> People with Albinism Worldwide: A Human right Perspective (2021)

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/tools-and-resources/comprehensive-report-albinism-worldwide-2021>

<sup>2</sup> Climate change and persons with albinism: Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism, Muluka-Anne Miti-Drummond (2023).

<https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2F78%2F167&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False>

<sup>3</sup> As above



include sun blocks on the list of Essential Medicine to protect persons with albinism from skin cancer.