
AAN/AS/2026/004**11 February 2026**

Call for the Immediate Appointment of an African Union Special Envoy on Albinism

The Africa Albinism Network (AAN) welcomes the convening of the upcoming African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the 48th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council. These high-level deliberations present a critical opportunity for African leadership to reaffirm its collective commitment to human dignity, equality, and the protection of the most vulnerable.

Across the continent, persons with albinism continue to face intersecting and persistent human rights violations, including targeted killings, trafficking, mutilation, harmful practices, discrimination in access to health care, education, employment, and political participation, as well as deep-rooted stigma and social exclusion. Despite important normative advances at continental and international levels, implementation gaps remain profound and, in many contexts, life-threatening.

AAN recalls that the African Union has previously recognised the gravity of the human rights situation of persons with albinism and the need for a dedicated high-level mechanism to ensure sustained political attention, coordination, and accountability. In this regard, the proposed establishment of an African Union Special Envoy on Albinism remains a necessary and long-overdue step.

While AAN acknowledges and appreciates the leadership shown by a small number of AU Member States that have expressed support for the appointment of a Special Envoy on Albinism, the absence of a formal appointment continues to weaken continental responses and leaves millions of Africans with albinism without an effective institutional champion at the highest political level.

The appointment of an AU Special Envoy on Albinism would:

- Provide sustained political leadership and visibility on the human rights of persons with albinism.

AAN/AS/2026/004**11 February 2026**

- Strengthen coordination between AU organs, Member States, National Human Rights Institutions, and civil society;
- Support implementation of the African Union Plan of Action on Albinism (2021–2031);
- Enhance prevention of violence and harmful practices through early warning, advocacy, and diplomatic engagement;
- Reinforce Africa's global leadership on disability rights and inclusion.

In light of the above, the Africa Albinism Network strongly calls on the African Union Executive Council and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government to proceed with the immediate appointment of an African Union Special Envoy on Albinism during this current cycle.

AAN further urges all AU Member States to demonstrate solidarity and political will by supporting this appointment in the interest of protecting lives, restoring dignity, and advancing justice for persons with albinism across Africa.

The time for symbolic commitments has passed. What is required now is decisive action.

Issued by:
Africa Albinism Network (AAN)