



# General Assembly

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**Social development**

## Malawi and United Republic of Tanzania: draft resolution

### Persons with albinism

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>1</sup> and recalling relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>2</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>3</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,<sup>4</sup> the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,<sup>5</sup> the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women<sup>6</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>7</sup>

*Reaffirming also* the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development<sup>8</sup> and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,<sup>9</sup> and the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,<sup>10</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution [78/171](#) of 19 December 2023 and its previous resolutions on persons with albinism,

*Recalling also* Human Rights Council resolutions [23/13](#) of 13 June 2013 on attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism<sup>11</sup> and [24/33](#) of 27 September 2013 on technical cooperation for the prevention of attacks against persons with

<sup>1</sup> Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

<sup>8</sup> *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>9</sup> Resolution [S-24/2](#), annex.

<sup>10</sup> [A/37/351/Add.1](#) and [A/37/351/Add.1/Corr.1](#), annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

<sup>11</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/68/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.



albinism,<sup>12</sup> as well as resolutions [28/6](#) of 26 March 2015,<sup>13</sup> [37/5](#) of 22 March 2018,<sup>14</sup> [46/12](#) of 23 March 2021<sup>15</sup> and [55/18](#) of 4 April 2024<sup>16</sup> pertaining to the mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism,

*Recalling further* its resolution [69/170](#) of 18 December 2014, by which the General Assembly decided to proclaim 13 June as International Albinism Awareness Day, with effect from 2015,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the social development challenges faced by persons with albinism<sup>17</sup> and the recommendations contained therein,

*Recalling* the report on persons with albinism submitted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session,<sup>18</sup> and recalling also all the reports of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism to the General Assembly and to the Council,

*Recalling also* African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights resolutions 263 of 5 November 2013 on the prevention of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism and 373 of 22 May 2017 on the Regional Action Plan on Albinism in Africa (2017–2021), the Pan-African Parliament resolution on persons with albinism in Africa of 18 May 2018 and the Plan of Action to End Attacks and Other Human Rights Violations Targeting Persons with Albinism in Africa (2021–2031),

*Expressing grave concern* at all attacks against persons with albinism, including women and children,

*Welcoming* the steps taken and the efforts made by the countries concerned, including the initiation of legal action against perpetrators of attacks against persons with albinism, public condemnation of attacks against persons with albinism, public campaigns to raise awareness, the adoption of national action plans, the establishment of protection and support mechanisms for victims and their families, the integration of albinism-related issues into disability and human rights policies, capacity-building for law enforcement and judicial officers and partnerships with civil society and community leaders to promote inclusion and eliminate stigma and discrimination,

*Expressing concern* that persons with albinism are disproportionately affected by poverty, owing to the discrimination and marginalization that they face, and in this regard recognizing that there is a need for resources to develop and implement programmes to prevent and combat prejudice, to foster inclusion and to create an environment conducive to respect for their rights and dignity,

*Expressing concern also* that women and girls with albinism may face multiple forms of discrimination, and a higher risk of sexual abuse, especially in communities where they are falsely perceived to have the power to cure HIV and AIDS, including being targets of witchcraft-related attacks,

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., *Supplement No. 53A* ([A/68/53/Add.1](#)), chap. III.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 53* ([A/70/53](#)), chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53* ([A/73/53](#)), chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* ([A/76/53](#)), chap. V, sect. A.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., *Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53* ([A/79/53](#)), chap. IV, sect. A.

<sup>17</sup> [A/78/903](#).

<sup>18</sup> [A/HRC/24/57](#).

*Recognizing* that persons with albinism continue to face environmental, structural and attitudinal barriers that prevent their full participation in economic, social, political and cultural life,

*Deploring* the disproportionate impacts of health emergencies on persons with albinism, exacerbating discrimination and stigma against, and the social exclusion of, such persons and affecting access to health, education, work, employment, livelihoods and justice,

*Concerned* about the impact of climate change and ozone depletion on persons with albinism, who face heightened vulnerability and a higher incidence of skin cancer, as well as other challenges resulting from gaps in preparedness and responses in times of disasters, crises and emergencies,

*Recognizing* the need to address the root causes of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism, particularly the interrelated factors, including the mythologization of albinism and the related lack of understanding of the scientific bases of the condition, poverty, discrimination and economic and social marginalization, witchcraft practices and other aggravating factors, which contribute to the ongoing outbreaks of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism, particularly on the African continent,

*Recognizing also* that implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>19</sup> will contribute, inter alia, to the promotion of social inclusion of persons in vulnerable situations, including persons with albinism, and reaffirming that Member States, in implementing the 2030 Agenda, should, inter alia, respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including persons with albinism, without discrimination of any kind,

*Expressing concern* about the continuing lack of information and disaggregated data on the status of persons with albinism, which are important to inform appropriate policy responses by Member States and the United Nations system, while acknowledging that some Member States have examples of good practices of collecting disaggregated data on persons with albinism to enhance planning, resource allocation and the monitoring of progress towards inclusion and protection,

*Recognizing* that access to full and productive employment and decent work is an important aspect of participation in social and economic life,

*Reaffirming* the need for the participation of persons with albinism in development efforts at the local, national, regional and international levels, and in this regard stressing the need to strengthen the effectiveness of national, regional and international policy and development programmes related to persons with albinism, ensuring that they are inclusive, participatory and responsive to their specific needs and priorities,

1. *Urges* Member States to continue to meet their obligations to uphold the human rights of all persons, including persons with albinism, including the rights to life, liberty, security of person, education, work, an adequate standard of living and the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

2. *Commends* Member States that have adopted or are in the process of adopting national action plans and legislation on the rights of persons with albinism, and encourages other States to do so, as appropriate, in conformity with their international human rights obligations and commitments, notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

<sup>19</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

3. *Urges* Member States to adequately support programmes developed under their national action plans by providing adequate financial and human resources to ensure their effective implementation;

4. *Encourages* Member States to address the root causes of discrimination and violence against persons with albinism, including through awareness-raising campaigns, the dissemination of accurate information on albinism and other measures, such as the integration of albinism into education curricula, and to collaborate with organizations representing persons with albinism, including civil society organizations, as appropriate, in their efforts to drive public awareness on albinism;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to end impunity for violence against persons with albinism, including sexual and gender-based violence, by amending laws, where applicable, and by bringing perpetrators to justice;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to work to ensure accountability through the conduct of impartial, speedy and effective investigations into crimes and attacks against persons with albinism falling within their jurisdiction, to hold those responsible accountable and to ensure that victims, survivors and family members have access to appropriate remedies, as well as accessible therapy and psychosocial, socioeconomic, legal and medical support, as appropriate;

7. *Encourages* Member States to take effective steps to promote regional cooperation for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of cross-border crimes affecting persons with albinism, notably trafficking of persons, children and body parts;

8. *Calls upon* the international community to provide financial and technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, in support of measures to prevent and combat discrimination against persons with albinism, including strengthening the capacity of their healthcare systems to provide affordable dermatological and ophthalmological services;

9. *Urges* Member States to ensure accessible, affordable and quality healthcare for persons with albinism, with particular attention to skin cancer prevention, treatment and eye care, encourages the assurance of access to information on proper skin and eye care and the inclusion of such services in health insurance schemes, and calls for further investment in dermatology and ophthalmology training, mobile clinics in remote areas and mental health support;

10. *Also urges* Member States to put in place mechanisms that ensure equity, social justice and social protection to provide for universal and equitable access to timely and quality health and social services without financial hardship for persons with albinism, as well as the elimination of the root causes of discrimination and stigma in healthcare settings, including during pandemics and other health emergencies;

11. *Encourages* Member States and relevant United Nations agencies to collect, compile and disseminate, using a human rights-based approach, disaggregated data on persons with albinism, where applicable, to identify patterns of discrimination, assess progress towards the improvement of their status and ensure that policymaking and resource allocation advance the realization of the full range of their rights;

12. *Encourages* Member States to develop, if necessary, policies and measures to address the social development challenges faced by persons with albinism, who may require assistance in order to enjoy equal access to benefits and services, notably

in the fields of education, employment and health, and to promote their participation in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life;

13. *Also encourages* Member States to adopt and implement policies aimed at protecting persons with albinism from the adverse effects of climate change, including through awareness-raising, access to protective resources and their inclusion in national climate adaptation and resilience strategies;

14. *Recommends* that the international community foster scientific and technological progress to support persons with albinism and ensure that the resulting innovations and benefits are made accessible and available to them in an equitable and fair manner, in line with the principles of inclusivity and non-discrimination;

15. *Calls upon* Member States to support the participation of persons with albinism in social, economic, political, civil and cultural life, as well as their consultation and active involvement in the design, implementation and evaluation of laws, policies, campaigns and training programmes, and further urges Member States to implement, if necessary, national measures to ensure that persons with albinism are not left behind, recognizing that persons with albinism are often disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination and lack of decent work and employment, and to commit to working towards the social inclusion of persons with albinism, in a manner that respects, protects and promotes their human rights and fundamental freedoms, without discrimination of any kind;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at the main part of its eighty-second session, under the item entitled “Social development”, on the various social development challenges faced by persons with albinism, taking into consideration the specific needs of women and children, including those related to social inclusion, health, education and employment, and measures taken, with recommendations for further action to be taken by Member States and other relevant stakeholders to address identified challenges, and encourages the Secretary-General to collect information from Member States and all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the preparation of the report;

17. *Decides*, taking into account the multifaceted nature of the challenges faced by persons with albinism, to consider the issue of persons with albinism at its eighty-second session, under the item entitled “Social development”.