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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Under The Same Sun Fund, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[3 February 2023]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Situation of Human Rights Defenders Representing Persons With Albinism in Africa

We speak on behalf of the Africa Albinism Network which includes Under The Same Sun Fund and over 190 albinism groups across Africa.

As human rights defenders representing persons with albinism in Africa, we welcome the report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism because working in this space makes us extra vulnerable. To follow up with cases of attacks as persons with albinism, we expose ourselves to various levels of trauma. Yet, we have to do the work because there are not many people in this space.

It is in this context that we call upon the government of Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia who have had cases of attacks in the last two years, to take specific steps to protect human rights defenders in their respective countries particularly through the national adoption of the African Union Plan of Action on albinism and with a budget. Kenya has done so, and the positive outcomes in that country testify to this approach.

Finally, we join the Expert to call out to the UN and relevant development agencies and partners to support representatives of the albinism community by including us in various training and capacity development programs that affect us.

Including us in these opportunities will contribute to our resilience as human rights defenders in this space, as we continue to bear a lot of the burden of protecting our fellows with albinism - alone and exposed.

Africa Albinism Network, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.