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**To the WHO Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines**

Department of Health Products Policy and Standards

World Health Organization, Geneva

**April 8, 2025**

**Subject: Support for the application to include sunscreen for persons with albinism on the WHO Essential Medicines List**

Dear Members of the Expert Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the application submitted by the Global Albinism Alliance for the inclusion of high-SPF sunscreen on the WHO Essential Medicines List for persons with albinism.

My support is grounded in over three decades of research into the DNA-damaging effects of sunlight and the etiology of skin cancer. This scientific background has led to my participation in expert groups on the subject within national institutions, including the French National Cancer Institute (INCa) and the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES).

It is evident to me that prevention is of paramount importance in addressing a form of cancer that is, to a significant extent, avoidable. This is especially true for individuals with albinism, who are highly vulnerable to skin cancer due to the absence of melanin and, consequently, natural photoprotection. For this population, the regular use of high-SPF sunscreen (SPF 50 or higher) is not a matter of convenience or cosmetic use, as it often is for the general public, but a vital daily necessity.

Therefore, high-SPF sunscreen functions effectively as a medicinal product for people with albinism and should be formally recognized as such.

I sincerely hope that the Committee will give favorable consideration to the application submitted by the Global Albinism Alliance.

Yours faithfully,

**Thierry Douki**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Thierry', is written over a horizontal line.