

**Submission to the 25th WHO Expert Committee on Selection and Use of Essential Medicines:
SPF50+ broad-spectrum sunscreen**

Application number A.25

Dear WHO Expert Committee Members,

The International Disability and Development Consortium's Inclusive Health Task Group supports the application to include SPF50+ broad-spectrum sunscreen in the World Health Organization (WHO) Model List of Essential Medicines and Model List of Essential Medicines for children, specifically for persons with albinism (Application A.25).

This application is led by the UN Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of Rights by Persons with Albinism, the Global Albinism Alliance, and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, with the additional support of other stakeholders.

Persons with albinism face a significantly increased risk of harmful effects from ultraviolet (UV) radiation due to their lack of melanin, which provides natural protection against the sun. Without adequate protection, individuals with albinism are prone to severe sunburns, skin damage, and a heightened risk of skin cancer. The inclusion of SPF50+ broad-spectrum sunscreen in the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines is a crucial step towards addressing these health inequities and ensuring that persons with albinism can enjoy their right to the highest attainable standard of health.

Broad-spectrum sunscreen with SPF50+ is essential for protecting the skin from both UVA and UVB rays, which are responsible for sunburn, premature aging, and skin cancer. By making this sunscreen readily available and accessible, health risks faced by persons with albinism are significantly reduced.

The application aligns with the principles of health equity and the commitment to leave no one behind, ensuring that vulnerable populations receive the protection they need.

We urge the WHO to consider this application favourably and to take the necessary steps to include SPF50+ broad-spectrum sunscreen in the Model List of Essential Medicines and Model List of Essential Medicines for children. This action will address an unmet health need and promote health equity for persons with albinism as persons with disabilities in alignment with the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and will contribute to more inclusive and equitable health systems.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



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