RARE
DISEASES
INTERNATIONAL

Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines
World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva, Switzerland

14 April 2025, Geneva

Dear Members of the Expert Committee,

On behalf of Rare Diseases International (RDI), I am writing to express our strong support for the Global Albinism Alliance's (GAA) application to include broad-spectrum SPF50+ sunscreen in the WHO Essential Medicines List (EML) under the title "**A.25 Sunscreen, broad-spectrum – prevention of skin cancer in people with albinism**". As a global platform advocating for the rights and healthcare of people living with rare diseases, RDI fully recognizes the critical importance of the EML in guiding governments to improve healthcare access for individuals affected by such conditions.

People with albinism face heightened vulnerability to UV-radiation-induced skin disorders, including skin cancer, due to the lack of melanin in their skin. Broad-spectrum sunscreens with SPF50+ are a critical means of preventing these severe health risks. The inclusion of sunscreen as an essential medicine is crucial for addressing the needs faced by persons with albinism, and ensuring equitable access to adequate protection against UV radiation.

In alignment with RDI's mission to improve healthcare access for individuals affected by rare diseases, we believe that the inclusion of sunscreen in the EML will help reduce health inequalities and promote better outcomes for people with albinism worldwide. In addition, the application aligns with the World Health Assembly Resolution on Rare Diseases, as recommended by the WHO Executive Board. This Resolution emphasizes the importance of achieving universal health coverage, which includes ensuring access to essential, safe, affordable, effective, and high-quality medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, and health technologies for all people, including those living with rare diseases. The inclusion of broad-spectrum sunscreen in the WHO Essential Medicines List would contribute directly to this goal, ensuring that people with albinism, a rare disease group, are not excluded from access to preventative healthcare services.

We strongly support GAA's application for broad-spectrum sunscreen to be included in the WHO EML and believe that this update will have a profound positive impact on the health and quality of life for people with albinism around the globe.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if Rare Diseases International can provide any further information or clarification to support this important initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Alexandra Heumber Perry
Chief Executive Officer
Rare Diseases International