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To The Expert Committee
World Health Organization (WHO)
Department of Essential Medicines and Health Products
Geneva, Switzerland

Subject: Statement in Support of the Inclusion of Urea- and Glycerol-Based Topical Moisturizers on the WHO Essential Medicines List (EML and EMLc)

Dear Members of the WHO Expert Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the inclusion of 5% urea and 15–20% glycerol-based topical moisturizers on the WHO Essential Medicines List (EML) for the treatment of atopic dermatitis (AD) in adults and children.

As a practicing dermatologist in Sub-Saharan Africa, I have witnessed the impact of atopic dermatitis on the lives of patients—many of whom lack access to even the most basic dermatological care. In these low-resource settings, affordable, effective emollients are often unavailable, yet they are critical for managing chronic skin conditions and preventing complications such as secondary infections, hospitalizations, and mental health challenges.

Urea and glycerol-based moisturizers have been shown to significantly improve skin hydration, reduce disease severity, and enhance quality of life. Their inclusion on the EML would ensure equitable access to safe, cost-effective, evidence-based treatment options, particularly for vulnerable populations in underserved regions.

I respectfully urge the Committee to consider this recommendation and to support the inclusion of 5% urea and 15–20% glycerol topical creams on the WHO EML.

Thank you for your consideration.



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