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Letter of Support for the Application A-30

Urea- and glycerol-based topical moisturizers – atopic dermatitis to the 25th WHO Expert Committee on Selection and Use of Essential Medicines

To the 25th Expert committee on Selection and Use of Essential Medicine,

On behalf of the Malagasy Society of Dermatology (Société Malgache de Dermatologie=SOMADER), we fully support the application for the inclusion of moisturizers, specifically 5% urea and 15-20% glycerol creams, for the care of atopic dermatitis in the WHO Essential Medicines List (EML). These moisturizers are critical for managing atopic dermatitis (AD), particularly in low-resource settings where access to basic dermatological care is severely limited.

Significant challenges in accessing affordable moisturizers for AD treatment are reported by dermatologists in low-resources countries. Without proper emollient therapy, patients face unnecessary suffering, sleep disturbances, and increased risk of secondary infections. Including these emollients on the WHO EML will directly improve patient outcomes and reduce preventable complications.

International guidelines recommend moisturizers as a first-line treatment for AD, alongside topical corticosteroids. However, access to quality-assured, affordable formulations remains a major barrier in low-resource settings. Recognizing 5% urea and 15–20% glycerol creams as essential medicines will facilitate equitable access and ensure cost-effective AD management globally.


To support equitable dermatological care worldwide, I urge the WHO committee to approve this application. This small yet impactful step can significantly improve the quality of life for millions affected by AD, particularly in underserved regions.

We respectfully urge the Committee to consider this essential step toward to address urgent health needs and improve health equity for all and global dermatological health.

Yours sincerely,

Prof Rapelanoro Rabenja Fahafahantsoa

President of the Malagasy Society of Dermatology

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rabenja', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.