



## **BREAKING NEWS: UN Passes Historic Resolution on the Rights of Persons with Albinism**

On June 13, 2013 the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva adopted by consensus a resolution sponsored by The African Group of Nations, which for the first time at an official international level, recognizes and addresses the attacks and discrimination people with albinism face in many countries. The historic resolution came about as a result of significant cooperation between the Somali Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Yusuf Mohamed Ismail, key member States led by The African Group, The UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and Under The Same Sun.

**Click the links below to watch videos relating to this historic resolution:**

- [UTSS Founder/CEO Peter Ash addresses the UN HRC Assembly on albinism](#)
- [The Ambassador of Gabon \(leader of The African Group of Nations\) presents the resolution to the Council and it is adopted](#)

**Read the full text of the UN General Assembly Resolution L25:**

Human Rights Council

Twenty-third session

Agenda item 3

Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States):

### **23/...Attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism**

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided* by the purposes, principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and

Political Rights, the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

*Reaffirming also* that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person, and that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

*Recalling* the fundamental principle of equality and non-discrimination that underlies the Charter and international human rights instruments,

*Taking note* of the work of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children,

*Reaffirming* the right to health and education as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties,

*Expresses its concern* at attacks against persons with albinism, including against women and children, which are often committed with impunity,

*Expressing its concern also* at the widespread discrimination, stigma and social exclusion suffered by persons with albinism,

*Welcoming* the steps taken and efforts made by the countries concerned, including initiating legal action against the perpetrators of attacks against persons with albinism, public condemnation of attacks against persons with albinism, the provision of temporary shelter to persons with albinism under threat of attack, and public awareness-raising campaigns,

1. *Urges* States to take all measures necessary to ensure the effective protection of persons with albinism, and their family members;
2. *Calls upon* States to ensure accountability through the conduct of impartial, speedy and effective investigations into attacks against persons with albinism falling within their jurisdiction, and to bring those responsible to justice, and to ensure that victims and family members have access to appropriate remedies;
3. *Also calls upon* States to take effective measures to eliminate any type of discrimination against persons with albinism, and to accelerate education and public awareness-raising activities;
4. *Encourages* States to share best practices in protecting and promoting the rights of persons with albinism;
5. *Invites* relevant special procedures of the Human Rights Council, as appropriate, in the framework of their mandate, to address the relevant aspects of the safety and non-discrimination of persons with albinism;
6. *Invites* States, in collaboration with relevant regional and international organizations, to promote bilateral, regional and international initiatives to support the protection of persons with albinism;
7. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights to submit a preliminary report on attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session;
8. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.