

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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# SADC-PF'S ADOPTION OF MOTION ON PERSON WITH ALBINISM A POSITIVE SIGNAL

The adoption of a motion condemning attacks, abductions, killings and discrimination against persons with albinism by the Assembly of the Southern Africa Development Community - Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) in Maputo is a positive signal for the SADC Heads of State and Government to adopt a resolution for the protection of the vulnerable group, Amnesty International said today. Amnesty International believes that the motion brings the region closer to genuinely addressing the cycle of human rights violations against Persons with Albinism (PWA), said Amnesty International.

The adoption of the motion, during the 45<sup>th</sup> session on 24 July, comes as Heads of State and Government are preparing to convene in August for the 39<sup>th</sup> SADC Heads of State and Government Summit in Arusha, Tanzania. This further presents an opportunity to scale up regional standards and advocacy to influence deliberations and resolutions of the summit.

Amnesty International believes that the motion represents a decisive leadership on the part of SADC PF that is needed, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. The regional parliamentary leaders are giving a fighting chance to those left behind and marginalized, including PWA and this important development should encourage the region to enhance the legal protection for PWA.

Amnesty International reiterates its call to the SADC Heads of State and Government to prioritize security and protection of PWA and the adoption of the Regional Action Plan in Africa (2017–2021). Amnesty International also calls on SADC member states to transform adoption of these standards in the Regional Action Plan into action, starting with the SADC summit passing a firm resolution on ending the gruesome and tragic realities PWA live through. SADC must also adopt, domesticate and implement the Regional Action Plan on Albinism along with the African Union disability protocol.

### Background

Over the past three years, Amnesty International has taken global and regional leadership in spotlighting, enhancing knowledge and advocating on issues of persons with albinism. Amnesty International has been working with the SADC-PF during this year to ensure that the body plays a stronger leadership role in building a human rights respecting, and inclusive society in which persons with albinism enjoy their human rights.

Despite facing the highest number of attacks on persons with albinism, SADC member states have not successfully developed a coordinated approach in cross border collaboration for combatting and responding to attacks against PWA. Impunity is entrenched by failing to hold suspected perpetrators accountable. The SADC region has failed to adopt a strategy for social and physical protection that can create a safe environment for the protection of PWA

and guaranteeing their enjoyment of their right to life, freedom of movement, personal security, and access to health and education.

The 45th session of the SADC Parliamentary Forum took place in Maputo from 15 to 26 July under the motto "Climate Change, Mitigation and Adaptation: The Role of Parliaments, Towards the Implementation of the Paris Declaration and the Katowice Road Map". On 24 July, the Plenary Assembly adopted 6 motions, one of which was a "Motion condemning attacks, abductions, killings and discrimination against persons with albinism in the SADC region".