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**Statement of ChildFund Alliance
during the First Regular Session of the UNICEF Executive Board, 6 February 2018**

**Agenda Item 1: Opening statement of the President of the Executive Board; Opening
statement of the Executive Director**

Mr. President, Executive Director Fore, Distinguished Members of the Board:

On behalf of ChildFund Alliance, I would like to congratulate Executive Director Fore on your appointment and the members of the Bureau on your election for 2018.

ChildFund Alliance is a global network of 11 child-focused development organizations working in more than 60 countries. We believe that children should have a voice in the decisions that affect them and should be able to participate in identifying problems and solutions.

This belief underpins our child-friendly accountability initiative which aims to support the achievement of SDG target 16.2 to end all forms of violence against children. We are equipping young people ages 13 to 17 with knowledge and skills to engage stakeholders, participate in decision-making and planning, and transform negative social norms that contribute to violence against children.

We look forward to joining in the upcoming End Violence Solutions Summit, taking place in Stockholm next week, where we will be supporting young people from Paraguay and Indonesia to participate. The Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children exemplifies the power of partnerships that mobilize governments, UN agencies and civil society, including the private sector, academics, faith leaders and children themselves, to realize a world where every child is protected from violence and exploitation. At a time when we are seeing less space for children

within the UN, partnerships that focus on children are an essential tool for strengthening how we work together at all levels.

We thank the members of the UNICEF Executive Board, the Office of the Secretary of the Executive Board and UNICEF for this opportunity, and look forward to working in partnership to realize the rights of all children and a world in which all children are free from violence and exploitation.

Thank you.