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Statement

Include Children Meaningfully!

Madame President, Excellencies –

Mandating the meaningful participation of children as agents-of-change in the formulation of policies and their implementation is paramount to leaving no one behind.

This is especially important in relation to the climate crisis, a “threat-multiplier” that magnifies the risk of children’s exposure to violence due to food insecurity, forced displacement, or child labor. It is thus critical to protect children’s rights by elevating their voices via meaningful participation in international dialogue on the climate crisis – from the HLPF to the Summit of the Future and beyond. As such, the 2024 HLPF Ministerial Declaration must reflect the principles and solutions committed to by Member States for the realization of children’s rights, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

ChildFund Alliance urges the international community to enable meaningful child participation towards the achievement of the SDGs. Targeted actions across SDGs under review that can reduce children’s exposure to violence, especially if they are meaningfully included, are:

SDG 1: Improving mechanisms to measure, monitor, and regularly report on children hit hardest by the climate crisis: the poor. Upholding children’s basic human rights impacting poverty, including adequate standard of living, right to social protection, and access to health and education.

SDG 2: Ending the hunger crisis by supporting communities especially exposed to the climate crisis. Empowering communities through early-detection programs, employment opportunities, and healthcare.

SDG 13: Creating spaces for children to participate as agents-of-change in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, including awareness-raising about heightened risks of violence, resilience-building, and disaster preparedness and prevention.

SDG 16: Harnessing children’s creativity to empower children to collectively work towards building a sustainable future with access to justice for all. Empowering children’s initiatives and participation with a seat at the table at all levels of decision-making, and protecting them from retaliation when claiming their rights.

SDG 17: Strengthening partnerships to unlock resources to realize children’s rights, and creating accountability mechanisms to consistently measure progress against trackable objectives.