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Statement of ChildFund Alliance: Annual Session of the UNICEF Executive Board, 11 June 2019

Agenda Item 4: Annual report for 2018 of the Executive Director of UNICEF

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

On behalf of ChildFund Alliance, I would like to congratulate UNICEF on the results achieved for children in 2018. ChildFund is a global network of 11 child-focused development organizations working in more than 60 countries. We value the work carried out in partnership with UNICEF to realize children's rights and protection through community-based programming, systems strengthening and joint advocacy.

In this milestone year of the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ChildFund has come together with five of the largest child-focused agencies. Through an initiative called *Joining Forces* we are pushing for renewed political commitments to children's rights and an end to violence against children. Our decision to join forces on these issues is a response to the recognition that we can do more for children together than we could by acting alone. We hope you will join us on the morning of June 26th for the launch of an in-depth global report that lays out how we are failing children and how we can respond. The event will examine how governments can mark the CRC's 30th anniversary by making a renewed commitment to children and bring them to the forefront of national implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

ChildFund appreciates the leadership of the Executive Director of UNICEF in the Board of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children. As a member of the CSO Forum to End Violence against Children, we have been working to support the Partnership at the global level and in Pathfinding countries. In addition to galvanizing political commitment to ending violence

against children, we look to UNICEF and the Partnership to translate the commitment into action. To put policies and interventions for child protection into action, adequate resourcing is essential.

At a time when we are seeing focus on children within the UN, the meaningful participation of children in initiatives such as the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and the Safe to Learn Campaign, is especially critical. During the upcoming HLPF in July ChildFund will be working to ensure that children's voices are included. Four children who are a part of our child-friendly accountability initiative will be coming to participate in the HLPF and the launch of our video of children's voices on ending violence.

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.