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OHCHR follow-up report on investment in children's rights

Joint NGO Oral Statement

Mr President,

This statement is made on behalf of Save the Children and 9 NGOs¹.

As highlighted in the HRC resolution 28/19 on 'Towards better investment in the rights of the child', the lack of sufficient, efficient and equitable investment in children remains one of the main barriers to the realization of children's rights.

In view of this, we welcome the OHCHR follow-up report on investment in children's rights² and its focus on good practices by States – from all regions and at all levels of economic development.

The report makes crucial recommendations to States to promote change in the way public resources are mobilized, equitably allocated and effectively spent to best realize children's rights, including to:

- Give spending for children greater visibility and priority in all budgetary and fiscal decisions;
- Mobilize sufficient domestic resources, in particular through progressive taxation, and where necessary within the framework of international cooperation;
- Safeguard spending for children during fiscal difficulties and crisis, including through systematic child rights impact assessments;
- Ensure rights-based costing of child focused programmes to support realistic budget estimates for the implementation of laws and policies;
- Facilitate for the participation of children in budgetary processes by establishing age-appropriate, meaningful and safe formal mechanisms where children can engage with public officials and by publishing child-friendly policy and fiscal information.

The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development provides a key opportunity to accelerate implementation of the UNCRC, including through its commitment to 'leave no one behind', through a particular focus on realizing the rights and meeting the needs of the poorest and most marginalized first. This includes ensuring that the most excluded groups of children have access to essential public services, such as health, education, food and nutrition, water, social protection, sanitation and child protection, and that discriminatory and financial barriers are removed. However, the SDGs will only be realized if States put fair financing behind the 2030 Agenda and its vision of a world which invest in its children³.

To ensure the realization of children's rights, including the child-focused SDGs, we call on UN Member States to implement commitments made in HRC resolution 28/19 on 'Towards better

¹ African Child Policy Forum, Child Rights Coalition Asia, Child Rights Connect, Defence for Children International, Eurochild, Geneva Infant Feeding Association, International Baby Food Action Network, Plan International and Redlamyc

² UN OHCHR, *Follow-up report on investment on children's rights*, A/HRC/31/33

³ UN (2015), *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, paragraph 8

investment in the rights of the child' and encourage States to draw on the good practices outlined in the OHCHR follow-up report on investment in children's rights.

Thank you.

