Human Rights Council 43rd session

**Annual High-Level Panel on Human Rights Mainstreaming**

**Thirty years of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:**

**challenges and opportunities**

24 February 2020

Oral statement by Plan International Inc.

on behalf of the Joining Forces alliance

Thank you, Madame President. This statement is delivered on behalf of the Joining Forces alliance.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Last September, the Secretary General warned that the world is set to miss the deadline for implementation of Agenda 2030. The cost of inaction will be especially high for children.

It is vital for the UN to ensure that child rights are central to SDG implementation, and form strong partnerships to ensure that no child is left behind. If transformative actions are taken in the next decade, we can break the inter-generational cycle of poverty.

The 2030 Roadmap is ambitious regarding child and girls’ rights. Goal 5 aims to achieve gender equality, empowering all women and girls. Target 16.2 calls for an end to all forms of violence against children.

But, to measure progress, we need specific indicators that address gender, age, and diversity. For example, the indicators for target 5.2 on the elimination of violence against women and girls only cover those aged 15 and older. This gap makes the most vulnerable girls even more invisible.

We cannot achieve the SDGs without realising the rights of all children. Children should be front and centre in our approach, empowered to participate in fora where decisions are made that affect their lives.

We call on the UN and governments:

* To apply a gender-responsive and age-sensitive, rights-based approach to achieving Agenda 2030;
* To track and demonstrate progress for all children by routinely collecting data on every child, especially those most left behind, particularly girls; and
* To work in partnership across the UN system and civil society, with the meaningful participation of children in all their diversity.

Thank you, Madame President.

1. Joining Forces is an alliance of six child rights international NGOs, Plan International, ChildFund Alliance SOS Children’s Villages International, Terre des Hommes International Federation, World Vision International, Save the Children International. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)