Statement of the NGO Committee on UNICEF during the UNICEF Executive Board
Second Regular Session, New York, September, 2018

Mr. President, Ms. Fore, Distinguished Members of the Board,

Nearly 30 years ago, the world made a commitment to promote and protect children’s rights through the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Over the years, Governments, NGOs and other members of civil society have worked together to uphold children’s rights. Much progress has been made; from declining infant mortality to improving child protection systems, the world has proven its commitment to advancing the rights of the child. We, the NGO Committee on UNICEF, remain committed to utilizing our programs, acquired knowledge and extensive networks to guarantee the rights and well-being of children.

As noted by Ms Henrietta Fore in her opening statement, there has been inspiring achievements but there is more left to be done. Reducing inequality and prioritizing the furthest behind is one of the biggest pending subjects. Despite efforts made by the global community to reduce child inequality, there are staggering numbers of children whose rights remain unfulfilled. Marginalized children continue to dwell in the blind-spot of data, policy and budgets. We need to go the extra mile and identify where and who these children are.

We wish to urge all stakeholders to amplify the role of children in understanding and solving child-related issues. Child participation, as outlined in Article 12 of the Convention, is a fundamental right of the child but it is still a challenge in many parts of the world. We believe that facilitating genuine, inclusive and substantive participation will bring us closer to our common pledge to leave no one behind.

2019 will be a particularly significant year for bringing attention to issues concerning children. Not only is it the 30th anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, it is also the 10th anniversary of the UN Guidelines for Alternative Care. The 2019 HLPF is an equally important platform to recommit to children’s rights and well-being since it will focus on goals such as Goal 10 on reducing inequalities and target 16.2 on ending violence against children. These milestones present a unique opportunity to bring children issues to the forefront of political agendas and commit specific resources to substantially make progress on fulfilling our duties towards children.

The NGO Committee on UNICEF wishes to reaffirm our commitment to collaborate with UNICEF and the UNICEF Executive Board to ensure positive outcomes for all children. We look forward to a continued dialogue with members of the Executive Board and a stronger and fruitful partnership with UNICEF.

Thank you!