

Statement delivered by Arelys Bellorini, Senior United Nations Representative for World Vision at the annual session of UNICEF's Executive Board. June 11, 2024.

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Mr. President, distinguished members of the Board:

We are being witness to the dire situation of children's rights in the world today. In the Secretary-General's annual report on the SDGs progress, the reaffirmation that only 15% of the SDGs are on track is quite alarming. The SDGs are strongly child-sensitive and the fact that only 15% are on track speak to us loud and clear about the severe regression of children's rights.

We believe that the international community needs to recommit to the promise of a world fit for children, made some decades ago. A promise reaffirmed through the SDGs and other international agendas since then.

World Vision wishes to add our voice for the Summit of the Future to have children's rights at its core. Some may wonder why many of us are making this call. Allow me to share three points on this:

First, if the intent is to establish a link between the Pact for the Future and the SDGs, then let us remember that children are key stakeholders in sustainable development, and their inclusion in the Pact is crucial for addressing the intergenerational challenges and ensuring a sustainable and equitable future. By involving children, their perspectives and ideas can contribute to innovative solutions and strategies for achieving the SDGs.

Second, the impact on children: The decisions and agreements made in the Pact for the Future will have a significant impact on children, as they are the present and future generations. Children are particularly vulnerable to the consequences of global challenges such as climate change, poverty, conflict, and inequality. By including children in the Pact, their specific needs, rights, and perspectives can be addressed, ensuring that their well-being and future are prioritized.

Third, long-term impact: By including children in the Pact, their needs and interests are considered in the planning, budgeting, and implementation processes. This ensures that the long-term impact of policies and actions is taken into account, as decisions made today will shape the future for children.

In concluding, including children in the Pact for the Future is important to protect their rights, promote their well-being, ensure sustainable development, foster accountability, and consider the long-term impact of decisions.

Thank You.