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 World Vision International

Madam President, distinguished panellists,

30 years after adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most ratified human rights Convention, we are still advocating for recognition that children’s rights are human rights and for the mainstreaming of children’s rights within the human rights framework.

World Vision, as a member of the global network of child rights organisations, supports the idea of establishment of a United Nations Child Rights Strategy. This would not only foster the mainstreaming of a child rights-based approach within the development and peace and security pillars of the UN; it would also embed children within the human rights framework. We stand ready from civil society to contribute to such a strategy, including by collecting and sharing children’s views.

As the leading United Nations entity for the human rights pillar, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights plays a key role in leading children’s rights mainstreaming. Children’s rights should be a priority within the Office and in its work to mainstream human rights within all United Nations pillars.

In preparation for the next Management Plan of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, we ask you, Madame High Commissioner, to ensure that the next plan:

1. Is informed by children’s views;
2. Includes a spotlight on children as a distinct group; and
3. Provides specific guidance on how the Office should apply a child rights-based approach in its work.
4. Demonstrates through adequate funding the political will to recognize child rights as human rights.

The United Nations Children’s Fund also has a key role in advancing child rights and support child rights mainstreaming within all United Nations pillars. We call on the United Nations Children’s Fund to strengthen its collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in this endeavour and we ask you, Madam Khan, how can the United Nations Children’s Fund best support the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other agencies in the mainstreaming of children’s rights with all United Nations pillars?

We welcome the presence of the Deputy Director of the World Health Organisation on the panel, a signal of the organisation’s commitment to mainstreaming children’s rights in its work and its recognition that children’s rights are cross-cutting for all topics and agencies of the United Nations.

I thank you.