

**Debra Jones, Director and UN Representative, Save the Children  
HLPF Intervention, Prospects for the future (projections, scenarios and new and emerging issues)**

**Wednesday, July 20, 2016**

- 1) My name is Debra Jones. I am the UN Representative for Save the Children. Today, I speak to you on behalf of Together 2030.
- 2) Many of those countries that were the furthest behind in achieving the SDGs are dealing with protracted conflicts, as well as slow onset emergencies in climate vulnerable countries.
- 3) I would like to highlight a few points to underscore the importance of linking resilience and disaster risk reduction to the wider 2030 agenda.
- 4) The crisis unfolding across three continents linked to El Nino underlines the **urgent need for rapid action to support national governments to respond to the needs of the furthest behind**, especially children.
- 5) While we must keep our attention focused on responding to life-saving needs now, we must also re-double our efforts to work together to minimise the risk posed by climate change to vulnerable communities – recognising that **all our collective efforts to reach the SDG goals are at stake in many countries on the front-line of climate change**.
- 6) The vulnerable will continue to be disproportionately affected.
- 7) In many countries affected by El Nino, we know from our work on the ground that **children are extremely vulnerable** to both immediate risks to their health, nutrition and protection and may also – without the right support – bear the brunt of the crisis for years to come if they are not able to continue their education or do not receive the right treatment to manage malnutrition.
- 8) El Niño has increased vulnerabilities in countries with limited preparedness and response capacity. Vulnerable groups, including women, girls, people

living with disabilities and the elderly, at increased risk of violence, discrimination and exclusion from essential basic services.

- 9) **Urgent additional humanitarian assistance is required** in response to El Nino, such food, water, nutrition, livelihoods and child protection interventions.
  
- 10) **We must work together in support of the Special UN Envoys on El Nino/Climate to breakdown the silos between development and humanitarian communities** and ensure that major – and hard-won - progress on the SDGs in countries around the world is not undermined by our failure to act now in the face of mounting humanitarian needs linked to El Nino.
  
- 9) The global community must learn from this crisis and ensure that the world is better prepared and equipped to manage slow-onset crises – like El Nino – in the future.