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13<sup>th</sup> January 2017

**UNICEF**

Executive Director Mr Anthony Lake  
United Nations Children's Fund  
3 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017  
USA

**Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children**  
Director Susan Bissell  
Secretariat Global Partnership (co/UNICEF)



Dear Mr. Lake and Ms. Bissell,

**Re: Expression of Interest to be a Pathfinding Country under the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children**

I am writing to inform you of the Federal Republic of Nigeria's keen interest in becoming a Pathfinding Country under the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children.

The Federal Government of Nigeria is committed to ending violence against children in all settings. The National Priority Agenda (NPA) for Vulnerable Children 2013-2020 sets as one of its six priorities that all children are safe from abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect.

As a demonstration of this commitment, His Excellency, President Buhari launched the Year of Action to End Violence Against Children on 15th September 2015, calling on all Ministries, Agencies, States, NGOs, religious and community leaders and the media, as well as every Nigerian to take action to ensure that no children has to suffer violence.

This year-long campaign was launched in response to the shocking findings of the Survey on Violence against Children (VACS) in 2014 – a nationally representative survey, conducted by the National Population Commission that covered every State in Nigeria, researching the prevalence, types, locations, perpetrators and impact of violence against children. The survey was supported technically and financially by UNICEF Nigeria, technically by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and financially by the US President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), with additional financial support from the European Union.

The Survey revealed a high prevalence of physical, sexual and emotional violence in Nigeria. It highlighted that most children do not tell anyone what happened to them and few children access the help that they need to recover. Violence has a negative impact on mental and physical health in both childhood and adulthood and perpetuates the cycle of violence, with victims more likely to become perpetrators themselves.

At the launch of the Year of Action, supported by UNICEF and USAID, Priority Actions for Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Children were also launched. This multi-sectoral plan, developed by the inter-agency Technical Working Group (TWG) on Violence against Children, convened and chaired by the Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development, highlighted that ending violence against children is not just an issue for the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. The Violence Against Children Survey (VACS) was clear that this is an issue that cuts across all sectors at Federal, State and Local Government level. It is also clear that the government cannot effectively tackle violence against children on its own. Therefore, civil society organisations, faith based

organisations, religious and traditional leaders and media, included their own Priority Actions for ending violence against children.

During the Year of Action, significant steps were made by all arms of the Government – as well as non-governmental organisations and faith-based organisations at Federal and State level. Lagos (February 2016), Cross River (June 2016), Benue (August 2016) and Plateau (September 2016) also launched their own State campaigns and priority actions.

The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development has also spearheaded the eight State, plus Federal Capital Territory, initiative to develop and implement a model for child protection system in order to translate the Child's Rights Act and Laws, which enshrine a framework for the prevention of and response to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, into practice. The modelling process also involves undertaking a baseline analysis of budgetary allocation to child protection, the costing of the child protection system and services and the development of budgetary guidelines to increase allocation at Federal and State level.

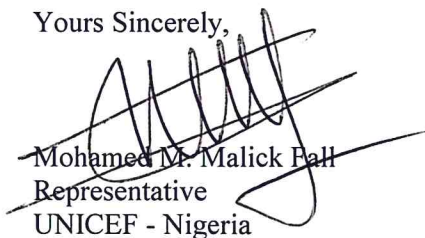
The success of the Year of Action led to the launch the Presidential Campaign to End Violence Against Children by 2030 campaign in Nigeria launched on 25th October 2015, supported by UNICEF and USAID. This campaign is linked to Target 16.2 of the global Sustainable Development Goal.

At this event, the President of Nigeria, in the presence of a representative of Mr Anthony Lake, announced Nigeria's intention to become a Pathfinding Country under the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, and launched the Road Map, which sets out the pathway that Nigeria will take to achieve the goal of ending violence against children. A key step on this pathway is the development of a time bound, costed National Strategy to End Violence Against Children by 2030, accompanied by a National Social Norms Change Strategy. These critical plans will be developed and monitored on an annual basis by the inter agency Technical Working Group on Violence Against Children, chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development.

As the focal Ministry in Nigeria to coordinate the end violence against children campaign, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development renews its commitment to take action to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children. We also commit to the End Violence principles: rights focused, child centered, universal, gender sensitive, inclusive, transparent, evidence based and results focused.

We look forward to contributing to the global efforts to ending violence against children and to receiving support from the Global Partnership in our efforts to ensure that no child grows up under the shadow of violence in Nigeria.

Yours Sincerely,



Mohamed M. Malick Fall  
Representative  
UNICEF - Nigeria

Enclosed:

Violence Against Children in Nigeria: A National Survey 2014 (National Population Commission, US Centers for Disease Control and UNICEF, 2016)

National Priority Actions for Prevention and Responding to Violence Against Children

Ending Violence Against Children: A Year of Action – Progress Report on the Implementation of Priority Actions to End Violence Against Children 2015-2016

Nigeria: A Pathfinding Country – A Road Map for Ending Violence Against Children