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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **ERG issues its Action Pledge in support of the United Nation's International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour**

**Eurasian Resources Group (“ERG” or “The Group”), a leading diversified natural resources group headquartered in Luxembourg, has submitted an Action Pledge to accelerate efforts to eradicate child labour worldwide in support of the UN’s designation of 2021 as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. Administered by the International Labour Organisation and the Alliance 8.7, the Action Pledge strengthens ERG’s commitment to eliminate child labour in the cobalt mining sector in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where c. 40,000 children are engaged in mining activity, including in the extraction of cobalt, crucial to lithium-ion batteries and the transition to a low carbon economy.**

The Group’s targeted community investment strategy is focused on keeping 2000 children out of artisanal and small-scale mining in 2021, and ERG is continuing to implement controls to ensure that its operations are in no way connected to child labour.

ERG has been committed to this action for a number of years and will continue supporting the Good Shepherd International Foundation (GSIF), an organisation it has partnered with since 2017, through Bon Pasteur Kolwezi programme, to keep an ever-increasing number of children out of mining.

As the founding member of the Global Battery Alliance (GBA), ERG will continue playing a leadership role in raising awareness through action across the battery value chain, focusing on Target 8.7 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which calls for eradicating modern slavery, trafficking, and child labour. At the end of 2020, the Group was among the first organisations to contribute to the Fund for the Prevention of Child Labour in Mining Communities - A Global Battery Alliance Collaboration, aiming to raise a total of US\$ 21 million over the next three years to fund a series of initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of child labour in DRC mining communities.

*Benedikt Sobotka, CEO of Eurasian Resources Group, commented: “The elimination of child labour is crucial to the Group’s wider efforts to help ensure a safe and sustainable future for mining communities in the DRC. At ERG, we are fully committed to ending poor working conditions and child labour through our collaborative efforts like the Global Battery Alliance and our support of organisations like the Good Shepherd International Foundation. For 2021, we have envisioned new steps to fight child labour in mining, including signing a new multi-year agreement with the GSIF to expand their support network to new communities in the DRC and developing initiatives like the Battery Passport from the GBA, which promises a fully traceable, ethical and sustainable battery supply chain.”*

The Pledge is available in full below:

*“An estimated 40,000 children are directly engaged in mining in the DRC (source: Unicef) including cobalt, which is essential to lithium-ion batteries and the transition to a low carbon economy. At Eurasian Resources Group, we are committed to ending child labour and pledge to continue support of organisations working to remove children from mining in the communities surrounding our Metalkol RTR operation near Kolwezi, DRC. We will target our community investment strategy with the goal of keeping 2000 children out of artisanal and small-scale mining in 2021 and continuing to implement controls to ensure our operations are in no way connected to child labour.”*

More details regarding the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour can be found on [www.endchildlabour2021.org](http://www.endchildlabour2021.org). Additional information regarding Eurasian Resources Group’s efforts to protect children from forced labour and ensure the sustainability of the battery value chain can be found on its [website](#).

**For additional information please contact:**

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**About Eurasian Resources Group:**

Eurasian Resources Group (ERG) is a leading diversified natural resources group with integrated mining, processing, energy, logistics, and marketing operations. The Group operates in 15 countries and is a major employer in the industry.

ERG is the world’s largest high-carbon ferrochrome producer by chrome content and among the principal copper and cobalt suppliers. It is also one of the largest suppliers of alumina and iron ore in Eurasia and the only producer of high-grade aluminium in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In Kazakhstan, ERG represents one third of the metals and mining industry. It is also a key power supplier and a large railway operator in Central Asia. ERG manages production entities in Kazakhstan that are among the nation’s foremost enterprises, including Kazchrome, SSGPO, Kazakhstan Aluminium Smelter (KAS), Aluminium of Kazakhstan, Eurasian Energy Corporation, Shubarkol Komir, Transportation Group TransCom, 3-Energoortalyk and ERG Service.

In Africa, ERG mines and processes copper and cobalt ore and produces copper and cobalt hydroxide. It has recently launched Metalkol Roan Tailings Reclamation (RTR), a major tailings reprocessing operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Group has further development projects in thermal coal, manganese, platinum, bauxite and fluorspar in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mali and Mozambique. ERG controls its own supply chain on the continent through its company Sabot, a North-South Corridor logistics specialist.

In the State of Bahia in Brazil, ERG is pioneering an integrated mining and logistics project comprising the Pedra de Ferro iron ore mine, the Porto Sul deep-water port and the associated new FIOL broad-gauge railway.

ERG is a founding member of the Global Battery Alliance launched on the platform of the World Economic Forum and dedicated to ensuring that there is an ethical and sustainable global supply chain for the lithium-ion batteries that help power the Fourth Industrial Revolution and a low carbon economy, through electric vehicles, renewable energy technologies and smartphones.