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MEDIA RELEASE

ERG marks progress in eliminating child labour from mining in the wider industry

To mark the UN's "Week of Action" Against Child Labour from 10th to 17th June, Eurasian Resources Group ("ERG" or "the Group"), a leading diversified natural resources group, reflects on the progress it has made in helping eradicate child labour from the cobalt mining sector in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in the past year. The Group has continued supporting civil society organisations to implement major social initiatives, made new pledges and commitments and collaborated with international partners on innovative solutions to ensure value chain transparency.

Benedikt Sobotka, CEO of Eurasian Resources Group, said: "Eradicating child labour is of paramount importance to ensure a safe, sustainable future for mining communities in the DRC. We are pleased to have made progress in our efforts to achieve this over the past year, however, we recognise that much still needs to be done in the industry. To this end, ERG recently submitted an Action Pledge in support of the UN's designation of 2021 as the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. We are fully committed to ending child and forced labour and fostering safe and quality jobs in the regions in which we operate."

In 2020, ERG's partnership with non-profit organisation **The Good Shepherd International Foundation ("GSIF")** in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) enabled thousands of children to leave mining activities. This included ensuring that 3,425 children in Kanina, DRC left the worst forms of child labour to receive an education and protection from unsafe environments. ERG has contributed funding for the **Bon Pasteur Child Protection Centre in Kanina** since 2017, which is supporting up to 1,000 children from ASM communities, and has committed to support the construction of a new child protection centre in the town of Tshala.

During 2020, ERG also funded a major one-year partnership with international development organisation **Pact. The 'Children Out of Mining – Northern Kolwezi'** programme supported 120 miners aged 15-17 in Northern Kolwezi near Metalkol RTR, and helped them gain skills in auto-mechanics, masonry, carpentry, welding and sewing. As part of the programme, over 67,000 community members received awareness training on the risks associated with child labour.

As a founding member of the **Global Battery Alliance (GBA)**, ERG has participated in driving changes in the battery value chain with other public and private members including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), BASF, the World Bank Group and Volkswagen. The GBA has produced a multi-year roadmap towards 2030 based on 10 principles to which all of its members commit, including Principle #8: "Immediately and urgently eliminating child and forced labour, strengthening communities and respecting the human rights of those employed by the value chain". To achieve this goal, ERG is supporting the GBA in

developing the **Battery Passport**, a type of quality seal on a global digital lifecycle platform for sharing battery data and ensuring batteries are at no point connected with child labour. ERG has also continued its work within the steering committee for **Cobalt Action Partnership**, a collaborative GBA initiative for eliminating child and forced labour from the cobalt value chain.

ERG was one of the first contributors to the **Fund for the Prevention of Child Labour in Mining Communities – an initiative of the GBA administered by UNICEF** – which is aiming to raise USD 21 million over the next three years to address the root causes of child labour in DRC.

Internally, ERG has bolstered its work to deliver assurance around the cobalt it produces at its Metalkol RTR operation, now the world's second-largest standalone cobalt producer and a major producer of copper. This included the operationalisation of its landmark **Clean Cobalt Framework**, as well as a commitment to undergo the **Responsible Minerals Initiative's Responsible Minerals Assurance Process (RMAP)**.

The Group has also joined forces with other EV supply chain majors, including Glencore, CMOG, and Umicore, to pilot **Re|Source, a blockchain solution** to trace responsibly produced cobalt from the mine to the electric car. This should improve sustainable practices for cobalt mining and processing, further helping tackle child labour in the mining sector.

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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. Metalkol RTR has become the world's second largest standalone cobalt producer and is also a large producer of copper.

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.