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Dear Ms Ojiambo,

Let me start by congratulating you on your new appointment. I look forward to meeting soon and for our two organisations to continue working together closely to ensure business is a force for good in society. Now more than ever we need cross-sector collaboration to ensure that we build back better from the Covid-19 crisis and use the reinvention as an opportunity to address the major issues we face, such as the climate crisis and inequality.

Unilever is a strong supporter of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) Ten Principles. We are grateful for its recognition that business has an important role to play in creating a prosperous future, and for its guidance in helping business uphold its responsibilities.

In 2015, the world agreed a roadmap for a prosperous future – the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We are firm supporters of these Goals, which are addressing the huge social, environmental and economic challenges, whilst creating new markets, driving growth and restoring trust in business. These goals closely align with Unilever's deeply held belief that we will be a better business by taking a long-term, sustainable approach.

It is our view that this is the only way business can succeed. We see evidence of this everywhere we look. People are increasingly opting for ethical, sustainable brands whilst they are also taking to the streets and social media to praise good corporate behaviour and punish bad. Investors are holding companies to account, recognising that a healthy business requires a healthy world.

Now entering its final year, the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan is our blueprint for delivering this vision. Our Sustainable Living Report provides a comprehensive overview of our progress, but I want to share some highlights.

First our Sustainable Living Brands – those with purpose at the core of everything they do – are performing strongly across the board. Take Knorr as an example, they are supporting sustainable farming by investing up to €1m each year in the Knorr Partnership Fund which co-funds projects with suppliers for their farmers, and helps them meet, or go beyond, the requirements of our Unilever Sustainable Agriculture Code.

Second, we have stepped up efforts on gender equality. In March we announced our achievement of 50% gender balance across management globally – up from 38% in 2010 – and our non-executive Board is 45% women. However, we recognise that there is still more to do. A dedicated Diversity & Inclusion team has implemented several initiatives, including

a Global Diversity Board and a network of nearly 100 Diversity & Inclusion Champions, who have set the benchmark for how a community can power an inclusive culture across markets. Tools are also being used to drive gender equity in recruitment, including gender-balanced interview slate requirements, robust Diversity & Inclusion goals, and the Gender Appointment Ratio - a measurement which tracks senior leaders' records in appointing women.

Third, we are leading the industry on keeping plastic in the economy and out of the environment. We were among the first global companies to commit to ensuring that all our plastic packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025 - and have since been making strong progress on this journey. We have been redesigning our packaging, piloting new distribution models - such as TerraCycle's Loop - and recently invested \$15million into the Ocean Fund and Incubator to develop the infrastructure for waste collection in South Asia.

Lastly, the climate crisis has now reached a point where there can be no room for misinterpretation on the scale of the challenge. In June 2020 we announced new stretching commitments and actions to fight climate change and regenerate nature. This includes a commitment to be a zero emissions company from sourcing to point of sale by 2039; 11 years ahead of the Paris agreement. This is a hugely motivating task that energises me greatly, however we are all too aware that you cannot be a sustainable company in an unsustainable economy. We will continue to use advocacy platforms to urge Governments to support the transition to a net zero emissions economy by 2050. No one sector can do this alone.

Unilever was a founding member of UNGC and The Communication on Progress is an important transparency initiative that provides an opportunity for business to evaluate its achievements and the challenges it faces. I have shared above some of most important achievements - there are, of course, many more. Indeed, while we are proud of the progress we are making towards becoming a truly sustainable business, we have no complacency about the size of the task ahead. I am proud to be re-confirming our support for the United Nations Global Compact.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Jope', with a horizontal line underneath.

Alan Jope
CEO, Unilever