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ADDENDUM TO:

THE CORPORATE SECTOR AND CHILDREN’S RIGHTS IN THE NORDIC REGION
Additional insight: Private & state-owned companies

IN COLLABORATION WITH:

BCG THE BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP
In the recent report *The Corporate Sector and Children’s Rights in the Nordic Region*, Global Child Forum and the Boston Consulting Group published the results from a benchmarking of how the 299 largest listed Nordic companies address children’s rights in their public reporting. To compare the findings from the screening of publicly listed companies, we assessed 30 non-listed Nordic companies; the 15 largest privately owned and the 15 largest state-owned. A summary of those results are presented here.

Of a total possible score of 9, the privately owned companies scored on average 2.1 points, while state-owned companies scored 3.7 on average. In contrast, the 15 largest listed companies scored 5.1 on average. One explanation for the difference could be that stringent regulations on sustainability, reporting, and board accountability that affect primarily listed and state-owned companies are in place in the region.

Due to the small sample size, not all industries are fully represented; approximately half of the private companies are in the **CONSUMER GOODS** industry, with the remainder spread across **OIL, GAS & UTILITIES**, **FOOD & BEVERAGE** and **INDUSTRIALS**. The state owned companies assessed are in all of the industries except **ICT**.

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1. Based on revenue.
2. For more information about the methodology and the indicators used in the screening, please see *The Corporate Sector and Children’s Rights in the Nordic Region*, www.globalchildforum.org/resources/childrens-rights-corporate-sector-nordic-region/
3. Companies that score 6-9 points are considered high-scorers. Here, only state-owned and privately held companies are shown. For the high-scoring publicly listed companies, please see *The Corporate Sector and Children’s Rights in the Nordic Region*.
4. The IKEA Group is registered in the Netherlands. As a consequence, they are not part of the sample of companies included in the total average score of private Nordic companies. However, because of their Nordic origins, their child rights practices have been analysed for the sake of knowledge sharing.
When looking at the results for each of the indicators, it is notable that:

- None of the privately owned companies have received points on Board Accountability and only two companies (13%) have identified their potential impact on children’s rights in risk assessments and materiality analyses.

- The privately owned companies have an opportunity to improve in addressing children’s rights issues other than child labour, such as product responsibility, responsible marketing or sexual exploitation.

- The private and state owned companies are lagging behind the listed companies when it comes to reporting on the results of their policies, for example against child labour, and establishing strategic collaborations with child rights organisations.