REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR THE AMERICAS

PREPARATIONS FOR THE V GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINED ERADICATION OF CHILD LABOUR (SOUTH AFRICA, 2022)

ZOOM PLATFORM, NOVEMBER 16-17, 2021









1. BACKGROUND

The latest report on Global Estimates of Child Labour, presented by the ILO and UNICEF last June as part of the World Day against Child Labour, shows an alarming increase in this scourge around the world. For the first time in 20 years, not only has it not been reduced, but in 2020 there were 8 million more boys, girls and adolescents in child labour than in 2016.

In that scenario, the Latin American and Caribbean region had continued to make progress reducing figures from 10,5 million to 8,2 million by the beginning of 2020. However, in the context of the pandemic, the increased vulnerability of boys, girls and adolescents to child labour and to hazardous adolescent labour has been exacerbated by the prolonged closure of educational establishments, loss of employment conditions and adult income, and increase in informality, among other factors.

Since 1997, countries have had a forum to discuss, share good practices, advance policies and commit to the elimination of child labour, with a particular focus on the worst forms. These Global Conferences on the subject have resulted in a series of statements that serve to identify priorities and mobilize political support for the elimination of child labour. Next year, the South African Government will host the Fifth Global Conference.

The V Global Conference will be held only three years later to reach by 2025 the SDG target in 8.7, on child labour. The Global Conference will provide a forum for sharing the most advanced approaches to using inclusive education, economic formalization, social protection, labour inspection, and other proven means to eliminate child labour. It will also identify emerging political innovations that respond to the dynamic and changing nature of the challenge. At the IV Global Conference held in Argentina (Buenos Aires, 2017), many governments, social partners, and others committed themselves to further measures to eliminate child labour. The V Global Conference will provide an opportunity to assess progress in the implementation of these pledges, as well as those accomplished during the International Year for the Eradication of Child Labour, and to make further commitments.





Tripartite regional consultations will be convened as part of the preparations for the Conference. Five virtual regional consultations (in Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, and the Americas) will be held to further discuss the thematic approach of the V Global Conference and shape its agenda. These consultations will provide an opportunity to discuss progress toward the eradication of child labour in each region, coordinate with United Nations partner agencies, and assist delegations in preparing for their participation in the Global Conference.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 General objective

To provide constituents with data and the regional picture on the situation of child labour, as well as on progress in planning for the V Global Conference and to consult them on priorities and suggestions for the Conference to be held in 2022.

2.2 Specific Objectives

- To mobilise government representatives, employers' and workers' organizations of the Americas for the preparation of the V Global Conference.
- To discuss the most relevant aspects and challenges of eradicating child labour.
- To present recent data prepared by the ILO for a plenary discussion.
- To identify and systematize the regional priorities of the Americas by developing differentiated documents for Latin America and the Caribbean and for North America.
- To listen to civil society and, where deemed relevant by tripartite constituents, mobilize it to support the V Global Conference.

3. PARTICIPANTS

- Representatives of the Governments of the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Haiti, Panama, Dominican Republic, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kits and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Cuba), as well as the United States and Canada. The total number of guests from Governments will be 35 representatives.
- 34 representatives of workers' organizations and 34 of employers' organizations.
- 30 representatives of civil society.
- 8 technical specialists from the Region and Headquarters.
- 2 representatives of the Government of South Africa.

4. EXPECTED PRODUCTS

PRODUCT 1:	Report on child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean.		
PRODUCT 2:	Two Statistical reports on child labour: On Latin America and the Caribbean, and on the United States and Canada.		
PRODUCT 3:	Identification of regional priorities, with data disaggregation for both regions (Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America), with a document for the constituents' results and another with suggestions from civil society. These documents will be the region's contribution to the VGC agenda. Results of questionnaires on problems and priorities in the region.		
PRODUCT 4:	Final systematization of the Regional Consultation.		

Link to register: https://bit.ly/conreg2021ins

Link to the survey: https://bit.ly/conreg2021

5. SCHEDULE

LIMA TIME	09H - 10H45	10H45 - 11H	11H - 13H
NOV 16	Opening Meeting 09:00 – 09:15 - Mr Vinicius Pinheiro, Director of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (Spanish) 09:15 – 09:25 - Mr Kevin Cassidy, Director of the ILO Office for the United States (English) 09:25 – 09:40 - Representative of the Government of South Africa (English) – to be confirmed 09:40 – 10:00 - Presentation of previous commitments IVGC Commitments – Representative of the Government of Argentina (Spanish) – to be confirmed	BREAK	Meeting 1 11:00 – 11:20 - Presentation of regional statistical report – Federico Blanco, research officer, Fundamentals, Geneva (Spanish) 11:20 – 11:40 - Presentation of regional LAC report – Ana Lopez, CTA Regional Initiative (Spanish)
	10:00 – 10:20 - Priorities of pioneer countries – Representative of the Government of Chile (Spanish) – to be confirmed 10:20 – 10:45 – General Comments 10:20 – 10:45 – comentarios generales		 11:40 – 13:00 - Questions and plenary discussion Employer spokesperson (10 min) Workers spokesperson (10 min) Coordination: UNICEF (Spanish) – to be confirmed

5. SCHEDULE

LIMA TIME	09H - 10H45	10H45 - 11H	11H - 13H
NOV 17	Meeting 2 09:00 – 09:10 - Presentation of survey results on the region's priorities Thais Faria, ALC Fundamentals (Portuguese)	BREAK	Meeting 3 11:00 – 12:00 - Follow-up on discussion of priorities and presentation of summary of previous session Coordination: Ana Lopez and Thais Dumêt (Spanish)
	09:10 – 09:40- Comments: Laura Gimenez - UIA-Argentina (Spanish) Susana Santomingo – CGT Argentina (Spanish) 09:40 – 10:45 - Plenary discussion to agree on priorities Coordination: Ana Lopez and Thais Dumêt (Spanish)	•	12:00 – 12:30 - Discussion on proposals and topics relevant to the V Global Conference Civil Society Demonstration 12:30 – 12:45 – FUNDAMENTAL Comments – Geneva (Spanish) – to be confimed
			12:45 – 13:00 - Closing of Regional Consultation Ms. Claudia Coenjaerts, Assistant Director, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (Spanish)