



Africa regional consultation

In preparation of the V Global Conference on Child Labour (South Africa, 2022)

18-19 November 2021

Hybrid event in Johannesburg, South Africa

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

Child labour remains a persistent problem in the world today. The latest global estimates indicate that 160 million children – 63 million girls and 97 million boys – were in child labour globally at the beginning of 2020, accounting for almost 1 in 10 of all children worldwide. Seventy-nine million children – nearly half of all those in child labour – were in hazardous work that directly endangers their health, safety and moral development.

Global progress against child labour has stagnated since 2016. The percentage of children in child labour remained unchanged over the four year period while the absolute number of children in child labour increased by over 8 million. Similarly, the percentage of children in hazardous work was almost unchanged but rose in absolute terms by 6.5 million children.

The global picture masks continued progress against child labour in Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. In both regions, child labour trended downward over the last four years in percentage and absolute terms. Similar progress in Africa has proven elusive. This region has seen an increase in both the number and percentage of children in child labour since 2012. There are now more children in child labour in Africa than in the rest of the world combined. Global child labour goals will not be achieved without a breakthrough in this region. As a reminder, Target 8.7 of the 2030 Agenda's Sustainable

Development Goal (SDG) 8 commits all United Nations (UN) Member States to “take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms”.

In February 2020, African Heads of States adopted the Ten Year Action Plan to Eradicate Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery (2020-2030). This Action Plan provides an immediate framework for mobilizing African Union institutions, Member States, Regional economic Commissions (RECs) and other partners on the continent to scale up efforts and accelerate progress towards the achievement of the AU Agenda 2063 and target 8.7 of the Sustainable development goals. This involves ending child labour by 2025 and forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery by 2030. The Action Plan focuses on a critical set of interventions that can bring rapid results. It also specifies primary implementation responsibilities between country, regional and continental levels.

Since 1997, countries have found a forum to discuss, share good practices, advance policies and commit to the elimination of child labour in successive global conferences. The conferences resulted in a series of declarations, which serve to identify policy priorities and mobilize political support for the elimination of child labour. The Government of South Africa will host the V Global Conference in 2022.

The V Global Conference will convene with only three years left to achieve the 2025 child labour target, and eight years to achieve the 2030 target on forced labour. Although the primary focus of the V Global Conference is on child labour, it will also consider other elements of target 8.7. The V Global Conference will provide a forum to share state-of-the-art approaches to using inclusive education, social protection, labour inspection and other proven means to eliminate child labour, as well as forced labour and human trafficking. It will also identify emerging policy innovations that respond to the dynamic and evolving nature of the challenge. At the IV Global Conference in Argentina, many governments, social partners and others made pledges to take new measures to eliminate child labour. The V Global Conference will provide an opportunity to assess progress in implementing these pledges, as well as those made during the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, and to make new commitments.

As part of the Conference preparations, and in line with previous practice, tripartite regional consultations will also be convened. Five virtual tripartite regional consultations (in Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America) will be held to further discuss the thematic focus of the V Global Conference and shape its agenda. They will also provide the opportunity to discuss progress towards the elimination of child labour in the region concerned, in coordination with United Nations partner agencies, and to help delegations prepare their participation to the Global Conference.

The African Union and the ILO will jointly convene the regional consultation for Africa on 18-19 November 2021

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the consultation are to:

- identify common challenges, policy priorities and good practices in eliminating child labour in Africa and propose regional thematic priorities to bring a regional perspective to the V Global Conference on Child Labour
- provide a forum to discuss progress in addressing child labour in Africa, including the constituents' efforts in the implementation of the AU Action Plan to Eradicate Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery (2020-2030)
- contribute to further consolidating commitment, efforts and partnerships at continental, regional and national level to accelerate the pace of elimination of child labour in Africa

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The key expected outcomes of the consultation include the following:

- Contribution from African Stakeholders to the agenda of the V Global Conference on child labour, South Africa 2022,
- Inputs to the progress report on the implementation of the AU ten year Action Plan on Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery.

The outcomes of the meeting will be submitted for information to the AU Specialized technical committee (STC) Social Development, Labour and Employment, which will take place on 6-10 December 2021.

PARTICIPANTS

- Governments' delegates and representatives from trade unions and employers' organizations
- Representatives from the African Union Institutions and regional economic commissions
- Representatives from UN agencies and other international and regional organizations, civil society, and youth

A limited number of participants are invited to participate in the meeting face to face in South Africa.

LANGUAGES

Simultaneous interpretation in English, French, Arabic and Portuguese provided

FINAL AGENDA

18 November 2021

10.00 – 10.30
(Central Africa
Time)

Opening segment

Programme Director: Mr. Joni T. Musabayana, Director, ILO Decent Work Team for Eastern and Southern Africa, Country Office for Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and South Africa

Ms. Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon, ILO Assistant Director-General and Regional Director for Africa

Mr. Andrew Tagoe, General Agriculture and Allied Workers Union, Ghana

Mrs Sino Moabalobelo, Director, Business Unity South Africa

Mr. Sabelo Mbokazi, Head of Labour, Employment and Migration, African Union Department for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development

Mr. Siphon Ndebele, Chief Director, Department of Employment and Labour of South Africa

10.30 – 12.30
(Central Africa
Time)

Key regional challenges to end child labour

Chair: Mr. Siphon Ndebele, Chief Director, Department of Employment and Labour of South Africa

Joint presentation by ILO/AU

Comments:

- Ms. Mangove Roshna, Youth representative from Zimbabwe
- Ms. Miraj Muhamud Yusuf, Child labour senior advisor, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Somalia
- Dr Fernando Jorge Alves, Head of Division Social Affairs, ECOWAS Commission
- Mr. Daniel Mgabonihela Wiston, Senior Administration and Human Resources, African Commission on Human and People's Rights
- Ms Jane Ragoo, Confederation of Workers of the Private Sector, Mauritius

- Ms. Harriet Auma, Child Labour Focal Point, Federation of Uganda Employers

Discussion

12.30 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 16.00
(Central Africa
Time)

Ongoing responses and opportunities to accelerate progress against child labour in Africa

Chair : Mr. Sabelo Mbokazi, Head of Labour, Employment and Migration, African Union Department for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development

Joint presentation by ILO/AU

Presentation of the African Union's 10-year action plan to eradicate child labour, forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery in Africa (2020-2030)

Sharing of experience:

- Ms Salima Admi, Director of Labour, Department of economic inclusion, small enterprises, employment and qualifications of Morocco
- Mr. Patrick Kananga, Chief Labour and Decent Work Administrator, Ministry of Public Service and Labour of Rwanda
- Mr. Maxwell Parakokwa, Senior Programme Officer, Employment, Labour and Youth, Directorate of Social and Human Development, SADC
- Dr El Hacène Mbareck, Chair of the Social Affairs Cluster, ECOSOCC
- Ms Harrietta, Central Organization of Trade Unions, Kenya
- Ms. Josephine ANDRIAMAMONJIARISON, President of the Group of Entreprises of Madagascar TBC
- Mr. Andrew Tagoe, Regional Coordinator, Global March Against Child Labour Anglo phone Africa

Discussion

19 November 2021

10.00 – 12.30
(Central Africa
Time)

Policy priorities, promising good practices and scale up

Chair: Alexio Musindo, Director, ILO Director for Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan and Special Representative to the AU and ECA

Presentation, Review of child labour determinants and evidence-based policy responses towards ending child labour by 2025, Lorenzo Guarcello, ILO / FUNDAMENTALS

Introductory **presentation** by ILO/AU

FLASH DISCUSSION n°1: Inclusive, equitable, quality education as an alternative to child labour

Introductory remarks and moderation by Mr. Jephthe J. M. Mvondo, Policy & Advocacy Specialist, UNICEF office to the AU and ECA

- Good practice from Mali presented by Mr. Youssouf Diarra, Chef Division Pédagogie à la Direction Nationale de l'Enseignement Fondamental du Mali
- Economic case of investing in children's education presented by Dr Addis Yimer, African Child Policy Forum

FLASH DISCUSSION n°2: Extending social protection for children and their families to mitigate poverty and vulnerability

Introductory remarks and moderation by Mr. Dramane Batchabi, Senior, Social Protection Specialist, ILO

- Good practice from Côte d'Ivoire presented by Dr Martin N'Guettia, Directeur de la Lutte contre le Travail des Enfants, Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Protection Sociale
- Ms. Winnie Nyandiga - Africa Regional Coordinator, Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation

FLASH DISCUSSION n°3: Promoting decent work that delivers a fair income for young people and adults, with a particular emphasis on workers in the informal economy

Introductory remarks and moderation by Mr. Alexio Musindo, ILO Director CO-Addis Ababa (slide)

- Good practice from Egypt presented by Mr. Omneya Abd Elhamed,

Ministry of Manpower of Egypt

Observations by social partners:

- Mme Aline Mbono, Executive Director, Groupement Inter Patronal, Cameroon
- Mr. Akhator Joel Odigie – Deputy General Secretary, ITUC- Africa

Discussion

12.30 – 14.00
(Central Africa
Time)

Break

14.00 – 14.45
(Central Africa
Time)

Policy priorities, promising good practices and scale up (continued)

FLASH DISCUSSION n°4: Child labour in agriculture

Introductory remarks and moderation by Antonio Querido, FAO Country Representative for Uganda

- Mr. Mukulia Kennedy Ayason: Policy Officer, Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union Commission
- Ms. Micheline Somplehi Dion, Women’s Programme Coordinator at the African Confederation of Artisanal Fisheries Organisations (CAOPA)

14.45 – 15.45
(Central Africa
Time)

Identification of topics and preferred outcome document for the V GCCL

Mr. Sipho Ndebele, Chief Director, Department of Employment and Labour of South Africa Government of South Africa

Mr. Francesco d’Ovidio, Head of Solution & Innovations, Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch, ILO

15.45 - 16.00
(Central Africa
Time)

Closing