



Accelerating action to eliminate child labour,
forced labour and modern slavery,
with a particular focus on global supply chains

Follow-up of the IV Conference on the Sustainable Eradication of Child Labour,
14-16 November 2017, Buenos Aires (Argentina),

International Labour Organization

With contributions from UNICEF and the World Bank

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The elimination of child labour and forced labour: a 21st century development challenge

Child labour and forced labour are still prevalent in the 21st century. The international community has made it clear that the persistence of child labour and forced labour in today's world, affecting all countries, including G20 members, is intolerable. They represent a violation of fundamental human labour rights and undermine economic and social development. They contradict moral aspirations and play against the self-interest of governments, businesses and societies as a whole.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, universally adopted by all 193 UN Member States, calls for “*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*” (Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Target 8.7). The elimination of child labour and forced labour is intrinsically linked to promoting “*sustained economic growth and full and productive employment and decent work for all*”, as established in SDG 8.

ILO research shows that countries making progress towards decent work and sustainable development have also strengthened institutions which promote respect for fundamental principles and rights at work, namely freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, the elimination of forced or compulsory labour, the abolition of child labour and the elimination of discrimination at work. The international community has recognized that fundamental rights are inseparable, interrelated and mutually reinforcing.

Despite formal recognition of fundamental rights at work as an integral part of the global human rights agenda and as a pre-condition for sustainable development, their implementation remains a challenge. These challenges have recently been highlighted in the context of global supply chains which often intersect with the informal economy at lower tiers. It is in those lower tiers where violations of fundamental principles and rights, notably child labour and forced labour, are most acute.

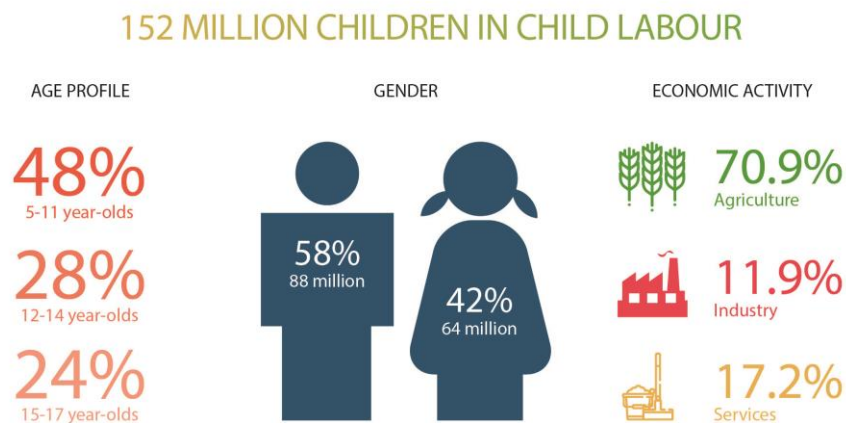
The IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour, hosted by Argentina in November 2017, provided an opportunity to further discuss these challenges and to identify solutions. This paper provides a short summary of available evidence, the outcomes of the IV Global Conference and concludes with proposals for follow-up action by G20 members.

The problem

Child labour trends

The challenge of ending child labour remains formidable

According to the most recent estimates of the ILO released in 2017, 152 million boys and girls between 5 and 17 years are in child labour. They are often deprived of education and of the potential for a bright future with decent work. Almost half of them, 73 million, are in hazardous work that directly endangers their safety, health and moral development.¹ Four out of 10 working children are known to be girls (42 per cent), although given the often hidden and therefore unreported nature of their employment, whether in domestic service, commercial sexual exploitation or forced labour and the high sometimes excessive rates of household chores, this may be a considerable underestimate. Only one out of four children (25 per cent) known to be in child labour has formally reached working age (15-17 years old). 4.3 million children are coerced into forced labour, about 1 million of them into commercial sexual exploitation.



The Africa region and the Asia and the Pacific region together host nine out of ten children in child labour, with poverty being a key driver

Child labour is a global phenomenon present in all regions; almost half of affected children (72 million), however, live in Africa where 20 per cent of all children in the age group 5-17 years are in child labour. Prevalence is significantly higher in rural economies, the informal economy, the family context, and in crisis situations resulting from conflict or disasters.

The situation is anticipated to worsen given recent poverty projections from the World Bank, which foresee an increase in the number of Africans living in extreme poverty by 2030². Although

¹ *Global Estimates of Child Labour: Results and Trends 2012-2016*, ILO, 2017, at: http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_575499/lang--en/index.htm

² World Bank, 2015

significant falls in the extreme poverty headcount in East Asia and South Asia are anticipated, the absolute number of people living in extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa is projected to increase by over 50 million people between 2011 and 2030, to 470 million. As a result, sub-Saharan Africa is projected to be home to around five–sixths of the world’s poor by 2030.³ Poverty remains a key driver of child labour.⁴ Children are disproportionately affected by poverty, as they make up around a third of the population studied, but half of the extreme poor.⁵ As they are twice as likely as adults to be living in poverty, the youngest children are the most at risk – with more than one-fifth of children under the age of five in the developing world living in extremely poor households. Prevalence is significantly high in rural economies, the informal economy, the family context, and in crisis situations resulting from conflict or disasters.

REGIONAL PREVALENCE OF CHILD LABOUR

■ Africa	19.6%
■ Americas	5.3%
■ Arab States	2.9%
■ Asia and the Pacific	7.4%
■ Europe and Central Asia	4.1%



By economic activity, 7 out of 10 child labourers are in the agricultural sector, often in subsistence and commercial farming and livestock herding, predominantly on family farms. This work is often hazardous in its nature and in the circumstances in which it is carried out.

Children aged 5 to 11 years make up the largest share of those in child labour and in hazardous work

By age profile, the 73 million 5 to 11-year-olds need particular attention, as practically no progress has been made over the last four years on the reduction of child labour amongst this age group, and particularly for girls whose progress is 50 per cent that of boys. Though there has been significant investment and focus upon school to work transitions, the key issue for this age group currently is the inadequate number of children transitioning from early childhood to school. Child labour needs to be replaced by measures to support early childhood development and quality accessible schooling.

Another group that requires particular attention are the 37 million children who have already reached the minimum age for work (15 – 17 year-olds), but still need protection as they are often performing work which puts their physical or psychological development at risk.

³ These projections imply a global extreme poverty rate of 6.5–7.0 per cent of the world’s population in 2030, which are around 550 million people.

⁴ ILO: Ending Child Labour by 2025: A review of Policies and Programmes, Geneva, 2017

⁵ World Bank Group and UNICEF. Ending Extreme Poverty: A Focus on Children, October 2016

Child labour is frequently associated with educational and social marginalization

The 2016 Global Estimates clearly show that a very large number of children in child labour are completely deprived of education. One third of all 5 – 14 year-olds (36 million) are not attending school at all. A substantial proportion of the other 68 per cent combine work with school, but the time and energy required by work interfere with children's educational performance, affecting their future prospects.

Child labour rates are also associated with increased rates of conflict, displacement and social marginalisation. Child labour rates in countries affected by armed conflict are 77 per cent higher than global averages and the incidence of hazardous work is 50 per cent higher.⁶

Nearly a quarter of the world's child population - an estimated 535 million children - live in countries affected by conflict, natural disaster, epidemics or other emergencies, with grave repercussions for the prevention and response to child labour. 37 million children living in crisis affected countries are out of primary or lower secondary school. In Syria, where nearly one in three schools is unusable or destroyed, more than 1.7 million children were denied access to education in 2016.

Climate related disasters threaten children's lives and disrupt their education creating conditions that leave them at increased risk of abuse, neglect, trafficking and child labour.⁷ More than 300 million children live in zones of very high flood occurrence that are also in countries where over half the population live on less than \$3.10 a day.⁸ Many families living above the threshold of extreme poverty are just one disaster away from falling into it. As climate hazards rise more frequently, the cumulative effect of repeated shocks will make it ever more difficult for many of the most disadvantaged households to survive, recover, cope and adapt.

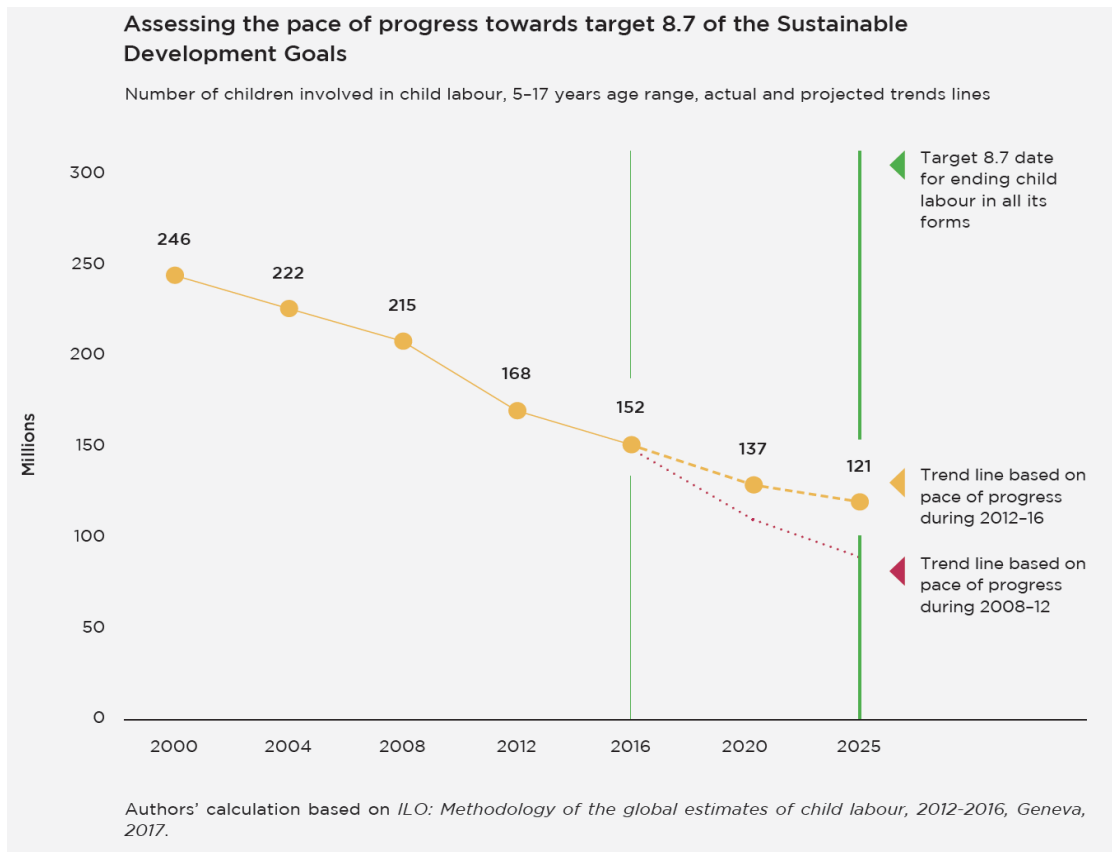
We must move much faster if we are to honour our commitment to ending child labour in all its forms by 2025

Since 2000, there has been a persistent decline in child labour. However, the pace of decline has slowed down between 2012 and 2016 and child labour has even started to increase again in the rural economy, precisely at a time when substantial decline was needed to reach the ambitious target set up by the 2030 Agenda. At the present pace of progress, it would still take almost 40 years to eliminate all forms of child labour.

⁶ ILO: Global Estimates, Ibid.

⁷ UNICEF Unless we Act Now, Impacts of Climate Change on Children, November 2015

⁸ UNICEF, Ibid.



Forced labour estimates

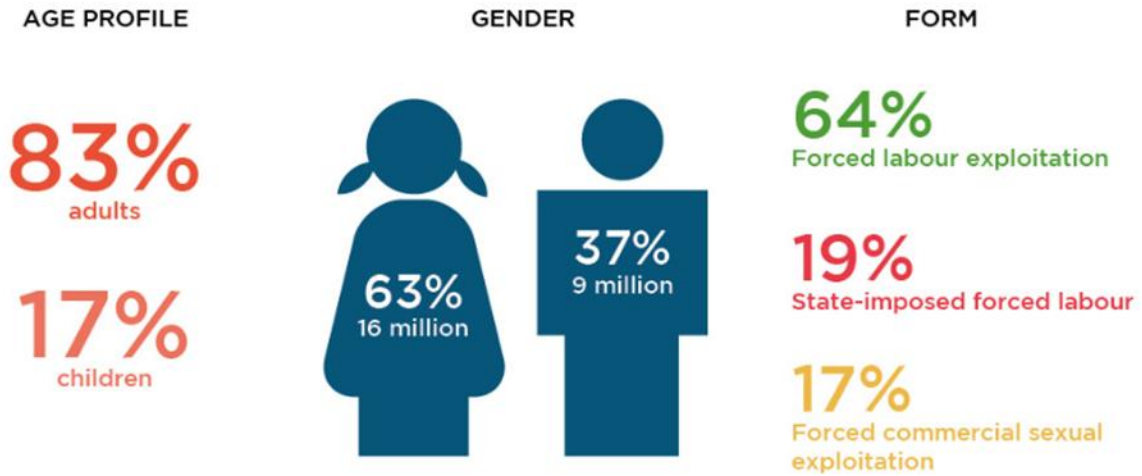
Forced labour has not decreased in recent years

In 2016, more than 40 million women, men and children were victims of modern slavery⁹, of whom 24.9 million were in forced labour as domestic workers, on construction sites, in clandestine factories, on farms and fishing boats, in the sex industry, or under coercion by the state in the military, prisons or public construction works. Another 15.4 million were living in a forced marriage, the vast majority of them being women and girls.

Notwithstanding national and international efforts, the figures have not decreased over the last five years. The ILO estimates that globally US\$ 150 billion of illicit profits are made from forced labour annually. Two thirds of these profits are generated by forced sexual exploitation, amounting to an estimated US\$99 billion per year.

⁹ The term “modern slavery” comprises forced marriages and other practices, in addition to forced labour. For the purpose of this paper, the focus is on forced labour. *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage*, ILO, 2017, at http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_575479/lang--en/index.htm

25 MILLION PEOPLE IN FORCED LABOUR



Children account for nearly 4.3 million or 17 per cent of total forced labour victims in 2016

The majority of children in forced labour work in the formal and informal economy, such as in private households, agriculture, in brick kilns, mining and in small sweatshops. Intergenerational debt bondage remains significant and the migration and displacement of more than 50 million children¹⁰ has provided new and increasing opportunities for traffickers. At least one million children are victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Precise figures are difficult to obtain and a more coherent, sustainable and integrated approach across governments including from justice, education, health and social welfare ministries is necessary to prevent and support survivor pathways and avoid the criminalisation of victims. More and better investment in the Social Welfare Workforce and Social Protection Floors at ground level will support increased protection, information and social norms change which will enhance resilience to the root causes of forced labour.

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by forced labour

Women and girls make up to 63 per cent of total victims, and account for virtually all estimated victims of forced sexual exploitation. Men and boys are more likely to be victims of state-imposed forced labour, accounting for some 60 per cent of the total number of victims.

The absolute number of people in forced labour is highest in the Asia and Pacific Region

About 16.5 million victims of forced labour are located in the Asia and Pacific region, accounting for two-thirds of all victims worldwide. This was followed by the Africa region (3.4 million victims), Europe and Central Asia (3.3 million victims), the Americas (1.3 million victims) and the Arab States (350,000 victims).

¹⁰ UNICEF: Uprooted: The Growing Crisis for Refugees and Migrant Children, 2016

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF FORCED LABOUR

■ Africa	14%
■ Americas	5%
■ Arab States	1%
■ Asia and the Pacific	67%
■ Europe and Central Asia	13%



Migrants are especially vulnerable to forced labour

The global estimates also show a correlation between migration and forced labour, indicating that almost one in every four victims of forced labour is exploited outside their country of residence, with migrants in the commercial sex industry facing the highest risk. Migration can have a lot of positive effects on countries of origin and destination, but is also a potential driver of vulnerability when migrants lose rights and protection, especially if they are in an irregular situation.

Forced labour is overwhelmingly concentrated in the private economy

According to the global estimates, 16 out of the 25 million victims of forced labour (almost two out of three) are exploited in the private economy, primarily in domestic services, construction, manufacturing and agriculture. The presence of forced labour in global supply chains is acute in the lower segments of the chain. Supply chains have expanded in many sectors where forced labour is prevalent, such as garment manufacturing, agriculture, fisheries, construction and others.

While global supply chains can be an “engine of development”, failures at all levels within global supply chains have contributed to decent work deficits and the undermining of labour rights. The figures indicate the importance of ensuring that businesses respect labour rights in their operations and undertake effective due diligence across their supply chains. Governments should be supported to implement and enforce national laws and regulations to protect their nationals and “level” the sourcing playing field. Evidence has indicated that increased access to more formalised business sectors and practices reduces opportunities for forced labour.

A renewed commitment to action

Concerted global action against child labour started in the mid-1990s and included prevention, law reform and law enforcement strategies, the extension of education and social services and public campaigning and awareness raising. Since 1997, countries around the world have committed to the elimination of child labour at the Global Conferences on Child Labour which took place in Norway (1997), the Netherlands (2010) and Brazil (2013). Since the mid-2000s, the world has also started looking more deeply into the issues of contemporary forced labour and human trafficking,

learning from successful strategies against child labour and developing complementary innovative approaches.

The adoption of the SDGs with specific targets on the elimination of child labour, forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking provides a unique opportunity to accelerate action at global, regional, national and local levels. Two important milestones on the way forward to achieve SDG targets were the launch of Alliance 8.7 in September 2016 and the adoption of the Buenos Aires Declaration on Child Labour, Forced Labour and Youth Employment in November 2017.

Alliance 8.7

In September 2016, building on the momentum created by the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the ILO launched *Alliance 8.7 as a Global Partnership to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking and Child Labour*.¹¹ The main aim of this global multi-stakeholder initiative is to help national governments achieve the ambitious undertaking set up by Target 8.7 of the 2030 Agenda, in collaboration with workers' and employers' organizations, civil society organizations, the United Nations and other international organizations.

Alliance 8.7 has been created to accelerate action, share knowledge, drive innovation and leverage resources, with a current structure based on six global *Action Groups*, a *Global Coordinating Group* chaired by Australia and co-chaired by Argentina and an informal *Group of Friends*, supported by the ILO as the Secretariat. Action groups deal with cross-cutting challenges, such as supply chains, crisis and humanitarian settings, migration and the rule of law.

The IV Global Conference, Buenos Aires, 14-16 November 2017

In support of the Agenda 2030, the IV Global Conference on Child Labour included for the first time links to forced labour and the promotion of quality youth employment.¹² It provided a space for governments, social partners, international organizations, civil society organizations and the business community to further discuss the challenge of meeting SDG Target 8.7.

The main outcome of the Conference, the ***Buenos Aires Declaration on Child Labour, Forced Labour and Youth Employment*** (see appendix)¹³ provides valuable guidance to assist all stakeholders with the development of a more integrated approach and concluded with recommendations in three key areas: 1) policy and governance, 2) knowledge and data, and 3) partnerships and innovation.

The main **policy** recommendations refer to strengthened legal frameworks, effective victim protection, an enabling environment to prevent child labour and forced labour (e.g. access to

¹¹ <https://www.alliance87.org/#alliance>

¹² <http://childlabour2017.org/en>

¹³ http://www.childlabour2017.org/sites/default/files/declaracion_bs_as-eng.pdf

education, social protection, decent work, transition to formal employment, rural development, etc.) as well as protection and empowerment of children and migrants, particularly in crisis situations.

More investment, **research, knowledge grounded in programme evidence and development of new methodologies and interchange of data** are needed on root causes, the effectiveness of public policies and other interventions, the development of indicators and the analysis of child labour and forced labour in specific contexts such as the informal and the rural economy, supply chains, crisis situations and sectors with a high prevalence of victims.

Partnerships need to be built at all levels – global, regional, national, and local – to join efforts, leverage resources, avoid duplication and benefit from complementary approaches. This also includes a focus on **innovation**, experimenting with new technologies, working methods, communication tools and inclusive cooperation mechanisms.¹⁴

Pledges

During the IV Global Conference, participants were invited to make public, voluntary pledges describing concrete, measurable and time-bound actions to be undertaken during the period 2017-2021 to advance Target 8.7.¹⁵

Ninety-six pledges were registered: 54 by governments and regional groups; 12 by workers' organizations; 1 by an employers' organization; 11 by international organizations; and 18 by civil society organizations. The pledges refer to policy actions, promotion of partnerships, advocacy initiatives, new research, legislative action and financial commitments.

Pledge makers will be invited to report under the Voluntary National Review Process (VNR)¹⁶ at the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and at the V Global Conference on Child Labour in 2021. Partners of Alliance 8.7 will organize annual review meetings in coordination with member States.

¹⁴ The complete text of the Declaration is attached for easy reference.

¹⁵ <http://www.childlabour2017.org/sites/default/files/concept-pledges-eng.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

Follow-up and proposals for action

Building upon previous commitments: main points of the 2017 LEMM Declaration

In May 2017, during the German Presidency of the G20, the Labour and Employment Ministers Meeting (LEMM) adopted the Ministerial Declaration “*Towards an Inclusive Future: Shaping the World of Work*”. It explicitly refers to the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, underlining the joint responsibility of G20 countries to “protect fundamental principles and rights at work as a foundation for an inclusive global economy and fair globalisation” and that “violations of these principles cannot be part of the competition” (§ 21).¹⁷

The Ministerial Declaration looks at the specific challenges of fostering decent work for sustainable global supply chains, as G20 countries make up almost 80 per cent of worldwide trade.

The Declaration also calls on G20 countries to ratify and implement relevant international instruments and “to protect labour rights for all workers, including migrant workers and in particular women migrants” (§ 19); a special annex addresses “policies for the fair and effective labour market integration of regular migrants and recognised refugees”. The Declaration asks that international organizations, in cooperation with the Alliance 8.7, produce a joint report containing proposals on how to accelerate action to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, forced labour and modern slavery in global supply chains (§ 23).

In response to the Buenos Aires and the LEMM Declarations, the following paragraphs provide proposals for future action.

The promotion of fundamental rights in supply chains: initiatives of the ILO and Alliance 8.7

Together with other SDG partnerships, Alliance 8.7 has built momentum to address root causes and consequences of child labour and forced labour, with a focus on integrated, coordinated and cross-border strategies. The Alliance 8.7 Action Group on Supply Chains held its first meeting in Berlin in June 2017 and started developing a work plan and a knowledge strategy. Stakeholders agreed to focus on:

1. building partnerships, pooling data and collecting good practices for a comprehensive report on child labour and forced labour in supply chains (as requested by the 2017 LEMM Declaration);
2. scaling up country level work in collaboration with member States, social partners and other stakeholders; and

¹⁷ http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_554414.pdf

3. expanding existing or developing new business networks, notably the ILO-UN Global Compact Child Labour Platform and the ILO Business Network on Forced Labour and Human Trafficking.

These efforts contribute to the ILO Action Programme on Decent Work in Global Supply Chains 2017-2021¹⁸ and the Roadmap for its implementation.¹⁹ During the 106th Session of the ILC (2017), ILO constituents also adopted a resolution on the promotion of fundamental principles and rights at work (FPRW)²⁰, asking for more field-level delivery. In October of the same year, the Governing Body adopted an Action Plan 2017-2023²¹ on FPRW, including activities related to global and national supply chains.

Proposals for a coherent strategy to end child labour and forced labour

1. Promoting economic development, enterprise development and decent work to prevent and address child labour and forced labour
 - Eradicating child labour and forced labour in a sustainable manner requires sound industrial relations and strong labour market institutions. Freedom of association and collective bargaining are important cornerstones of a comprehensive strategy to protect workers and their families from being exploited and therefore should explicitly be promoted in the context of the most vulnerable populations such as young workers, migrant workers, workers in conflict situations and domestic workers.
 - This requires social dialogue with workers' and employers' organizations and the establishment of joint commitments. The tripartite pledges of The Netherlands and Zambia at the IV Global Conference might serve as an example for G20 members. Child labour is often the result of low wages paid to parents, or of commodity prices too low to sustain family enterprises without the use of child labour. The non-payment or partial payment of wages is the most frequently reported indicator of forced labour globally. Strong social dialogue and collective bargaining mechanisms help level the playing field and are an important preventive mechanism against child labour and forced labour.
 - All interventions should systematically analyse and address gender inequalities and remove obstacles to ensure the full and equal participation of men and women, as well as boys and girls in the strategies to prevent and eliminate child labour and forced labour, not only as objects of public policies, but as active participants in the design, implementation and

¹⁸ http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_545657.pdf

¹⁹ http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_545340.pdf

²⁰ http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/106/reports/texts-adopted/WCMS_561873/lang--en/index.htm

²¹ http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB331/ins/WCMS_579684/lang--en/index.htm

monitoring of gender-sensitive and sustainable solutions. The empowerment of women and girls through education and skills, entrepreneurship and social protection floors should be at the centre of national and global efforts to eliminate child labour and forced labour. Measures to facilitate the transition of workers and economic units from the informal to the formal economy should focus on sectors and activities where child labour and forced labour are particularly prevalent, including in lower tiers of global supply chains.

- The interventions should aim to change the incentive structure affecting the demand of child labour and of forced labour and address the specific vulnerabilities that push households and individual to supply child labour and forced labour.
- Learnings from the MDGs indicate that stronger focus on people and countries that are being left behind by progress is required if asymmetric development and economic growth is to be avoided both within and across States. Root causes related to discrimination, exclusion and harmful social norms need to be addressed if economic growth is to be equitable and sustainable.
- Social sector investments, including within the social welfare workforce and social protection are both inputs to and complement the growth agenda because they can reach the poorest households which might otherwise be left behind by economic progress. A healthy, protected and educated workforce is more productive, and individuals are better able to make productive investments when they are offered some degree of income and personal security which may be available because of decent work (and the implicit absence of violence) or social protection

2. Building capacities in regions and countries

- G20 countries can make a strong commitment to implement the Buenos Aires Declaration and to jointly review progress of the pledges. A distinct G20-led initiative to strengthen policies and to build capacities at regional and national levels could complement existing efforts and would provide valuable leadership in this area.

G20 countries are invited to join Action Groups of the Alliance 8.7 and to collaborate with pathfinder countries of the Alliance through the mobilization of resources, technical assistance and support for the implementation of the time-bound programmes. These programmes should include the promotion of effective law enforcement systems, including training of labour inspectors, prosecutors, lawyers and police forces on human rights violations, with a victim-centred and human rights-based approach. As an example, the Alliance 8.7 Action Group on Supply Chains will identify at least four “pathfinder countries” to establish time-bound action programmes to prevent, reduce and eliminate child labour and forced labour in selected supply chains, in line with national priorities.

- Additional resources are required to support least developed partner countries in their efforts to address this global challenge. Economic development, decent work, access to

quality education and functioning social protection floors are key to eliminating child labour and also have a positive impact on the reduction of forced labour. Without substituting for national efforts, G20 members might consider providing financial resources, access to modern communication technology and global knowledge networks to these countries.

- Regional initiatives are also an important driver of progress and change, and many G20 countries already play an active role in regional initiatives. For example, the Regional Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean free of Child Labour has innovated with new tools and methods to reduce child labour, and the African Union is considering renewed action against child labour and forced labour. In Europe and Central Asia, the OSCE has led initiatives to prevent forced labour and human trafficking in supply chains and in government procurement practices.

3. Accelerating ratification, legal action and law enforcement

- As a follow-up to the 2017 LEMM Declaration, G20 countries can lead by example by ratifying and effectively implementing the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention N°29 (1930).
- They can also support advocacy efforts, provide legal and technical assistance to partner countries to adjust their legislation and policies in order to facilitate ratification and implementation of Conventions Nos 138 and 182 on child labour as well as of other fundamental ILO Conventions.
- Law enforcement systems should be strengthened, including through the training of labour inspectors, prosecutors, lawyers and police forces on human rights violations, with a victim-centred and human development focused approach, and an emphasis on victim to survivor pathways.

4. Identifying high risk sectors, promoting social dialogue and due diligence

- Some sectors present a higher risk of child labour and forced labour than others due to the structure of their operations, profit incentives, weakness of law enforcement or lack of media and public attention. Without prejudicing or pretending to provide a complete list, sectors that recently have attracted attention include the cotton and lower tiers of garment and textile production, the fishing industry, agricultural value chains (e.g. palm oil, sugar, others), the construction sector, the mining sector, and the recycling industry.
- These and other sectors provide entry points for supply chain surveys and for establishing alliances between law enforcement authorities, employers' and workers' organizations, business representatives, civil society organizations, research institutions and the media, in order to identify the root causes, economic, social and incentives structures, enhance

preventive measures and collaborate in the design of remediation schemes. The Alliance 8.7 Action Group on Supply Chains can support such efforts through the development of tools and methodologies, exchange of knowledge and mobilization of resources, including lessons learned to date advocating for an enabling Framework of Protect, Respect and Remedy.

- Labour ministries can support business initiatives to identify human rights violations, by providing, inter-alia, information from labour inspection, promoting social dialogue, including cross-border social dialogue, law reform and guidance to businesses on specific regulations and procurement policies. The ILO-UN Global Compact Child Labour Platform is an effective forum for dialogue and joint action which should be expanded to include businesses in G20 member States.
- Support to development strategies that relies on climbing the value added ladder of production and do not rely only on cost-based competitiveness is essential to the elimination of child labour and forced labour as well as to the promotion of other core labour standards in global supply chains.

The *Better Work programme* (<https://betterwork.org/>), a joint initiative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, has been working since 2007 to improve working conditions and promote competitiveness in global garment supply chains. As a result of their participation in Better Work, factories have steadily improved compliance with ILO core labour standards and national legislation covering compensation, contracts, occupational safety and health and working time. This has significantly improved working conditions while enhancing factory productivity and profitability.

An independent impact assessment gathered and analysed nearly 15,000 survey responses from garment workers and 2,000 responses from factory managers in Haiti, Indonesia, Jordan, Nicaragua and Vietnam. Results show that higher compliance levels improve the life satisfaction and wellbeing of workers. In particular, workers report higher levels of life satisfaction and wellbeing if they work in factories that comply with laws regarding child labour, non-discrimination and forced labour.

- In many countries, including those with large rural informal economies, trade unions have sought to organize and provide a channel for democratic representation, agency and voice for workers. This has led to many examples of collective bargaining agreements referencing child labour, involvement of democratic, representative trade unions and employers' organizations in the determination of national lists of hazardous child labour, and other efforts to influence local, regional and national employment and wage policies which have a positive impact on the reduction of child labour and forced labour.

5. Conducting research and sharing knowledge

- Member states could closely collaborate with the Alliance 8.7 Knowledge Platform which is currently being developed by the United Nations University (UNU). They could establish cooperation agreements with UNU to provide access to national statistics, databases, good practice and research based knowledge on child labour, forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking.
- G20 countries can improve and share their own databases on child labour, forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking with other countries and institutions, in order to facilitate the exchange of knowledge on prevalence, high-risk sectors, regions and populations as well as filling data and knowledge gaps.
- They can also support data collection efforts in third countries, through the exchange of good practice models, and technical and financial support.
- Partners of Alliance 8.7 have embarked on an ambitious research agenda, which includes impact assessments of policies against child labour and forced labour and the harmonization of indicators and measurement frameworks related to child labour, forced labour and human trafficking. These initiatives would benefit from active participation of G20 countries, providing inputs, ideas and access to data and research.
- A research project by Alliance 8.7 partners is already under way to collect sex-disaggregated data on the prevalence and root causes of child labour and forced labour in global supply chains as well as good practices as a follow-up to the 2017 LEMM Declaration (see above).
- Systematic impact evaluations of the interventions should be carried out to assess their efficacy and to identify the more cost effective.

6. Driving innovation

- Many G20 countries are already experimenting with new forms of partnerships which involve the private sector and civil society organizations. Such partnerships should complement social dialogue as referred to above.
- New opportunities arise to identify child labour and forced labour by using modern information, data and communication technologies. The rapid development of these technologies also offers new opportunities for cross-border cooperation in identifying vulnerable groups at an early stage and addressing root causes in partner countries, as well as enabling inter and cross country case management to ensure that both funding and solutions “follow the child”.

- Countries have also started to use their public procurement policies to create and support awareness of the obligation of enterprises to apply due diligence procedures and protect human rights in their own operations and through their supply chains, in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
- Countries could share their innovative approaches through the Alliance 8.7 Knowledge Platform.

ANNEX: Full text of the Report

http://www.childlabour2017.org/sites/default/files/declaracion_bs_as-eng.pdf

IV GLOBAL CONFERENCE on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour



BUENOS AIRES | ARGENTINA
14-16 November 2017