

The Hague Global Child Labour Conference

The year 2010 is 10 years after the coming into force of ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (WFCL), the most widely-ratified international labour convention, and 6 years ahead of the global target of eliminating the WFCL. While the global movement has achieved much progress in reducing the incidence of child labour, efforts must be stepped up if we are to deliver the commitment of a world free of the worst forms of child labour by 2016. In order to meet that challenge, the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, in collaboration with the ILO, is organizing a global conference on child labour in The Hague (the Netherlands) on 10 and 11 May 2010.

Around 400 participants will be invited to the conference. High-level government representatives, amongst whom around 40 ministers from labour, education, development and finance, from 80 countries in Asia & Pacific, Africa, the Americas, the Arab region and Europe, and representatives of workers' and employers' organizations, international organisations, NGOs and the business community will share their good practices and lessons learnt in the fight against the worst forms of child labour. Sessions focused on five thematic windows - i.e. political awareness, financing needs, policy integration, tripartite action and a 'focus on Africa' - will offer opportunities for all participants to discuss the challenges and opportunities at hand and to learn from each other's experience.

The conference objectives are:

- to deliver the commitment to take immediate and effective measures to end the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency;
- to agree on significantly intensified efforts to reach the 2016 goal laid down in the Global Action Plan; and
- to rapidly achieve universal ratification of ILO Conventions Nos. 138 and 182.

The conference will feature the launching of the ILO Global Report for 2010 on child labour. The report presents new global statistics and an analysis of child labour trends, helping us evaluate progress to date, pointing out areas in which we have succeeded and signaling areas where more work is especially needed.

The conference will also feature the launch of an interagency report (by the ILO, UNICEF and the World Bank) on child labour and development. Based on empirical research, this report will discuss the impact of child labour from a national development perspective, and the policy and programmatic priorities for addressing it in the years up to 2016.

Child labour is not a phenomenon that can be dealt with in isolation, it is both a cause and a consequence of poverty and low levels of social welfare. This conference aims to better mainstream the issue of child labour into the development debate, involving a wide array of prominent global actors involved in the broader development field.

An expected outcome of the conference is a roadmap with concrete steps to achieve the goal of eliminating the WFCL by 2016.

The first day of the conference will be devoted to political statements by several high-level participants and the launch of the Global Report and the Interagency report. Thematic windows to be discussed will be policy integration and financing needs. Participants will be invited to share their views and experiences concerning topics of particular relevance to the roadmap during six simultaneous workshops that will be held under these thematic windows. After the workshops a final draft of the roadmap will be discussed in plenary.

The second day of the conference will start with keynote speeches that will address the special needs of Africa. These political statements will generate an inventory of 'best practices', coming both from African leaders, as well as from other regions. After this, the thematic windows political awareness and tripartite action will be discussed. Under the umbrella of these thematic windows six workshops will be held during which all participants will have the opportunity to share their views and experiences. In the closing ceremony it is expected that several special invitees will participate and that the conference's outcome document, the roadmap, will be adopted.

For more information regarding the conference, please visit: www.childlabourconference2010.com

We are looking forward to your active involvement in the The Hague Global Child Labour Conference 2010!

Programme

Sunday 9 May 2010			14.45-16.00	Parallel technical workshops under policy integration	Parallel technical workshops under financing needs
Registration					
Monday 10 May 2010					
Registration					
High-level Opening (plenary session)	08.00-09.00 09.00-10.30			1. <i>Youth employment and child labour</i> The session will focus on the impact of child labour on youth employment outcomes. Topics will include school-work transition.	1. <i>Innovative financing</i> The session will debate possible new and creative approaches to mobilize funding for child labour elimination efforts, in particular from non-state actors. Links with innovative development financing in the health and education areas will be explored.
The opening session will feature high-level speeches and the launch of the ILO Global Report for 2010 on child labour. This report presents new global statistics and an analysis of child labour trends, helping us evaluate progress to date, pointing out areas in which we have succeeded and signaling areas where more work is especially needed. In addition, a more technical interagency report by the ILO, UNICEF and the World Bank will be presented.				2. <i>Education and child labour</i> The session will deal with child labour as an impediment to achieving Education for All (EFA) and how EFA can contribute to the elimination of Child Labour. It will consider initiatives in this area and plans for scaling up work.	2. <i>Economic recovery and child labour</i> The session will discuss the impact of economic shocks and natural calamities on Child Labour and how policy initiatives for economic recovery should be shaped to also address Child Labour.
Coffee break	10.30-11.00				
High-level Opening, continuous (plenary session)	11.00-12.30			3. <i>Social protection and child labour</i> The session will focus on the effectiveness of various social protection schemes in fighting Child Labour, including cash transfers programmes.	
This session will witness high-level speeches and a panel to discuss the 2016 goal and the challenges and suggested solutions to achieving it, from the perspective of the five thematic windows of the conference.				4. <i>Globalization, human rights and child labour</i> The session will explore the complex interplay between the rapid expansion in international trade and investment and global trends in Child Labour, and discuss ways to tap the potential of globalization in the elimination of Child Labour.	
Lunch break	12.30-14.00				
Policy integration (semi-plenary session)	14.00-14.45				
Child labour is all too often analysed and dealt with in isolation. Yet the issue is deeply linked to key social outcomes and welfare indicators. If well synchronised with economic and social policies at large, efforts aimed at the elimination of child labour have the ability to decisively contribute to poverty alleviation and educational upgrading, and vice versa. This session will provide opportunities to discuss the need and options for policy integration - at different levels.		Financing needs (semi-plenary session)			
The cost of comprehensive national programmes to fully end (the worst forms of) child labour is high, yet affordable, given the means of most countries and the assistance provided by the international community and international financial institutions. This session will pay attention to the financing needs to end (the worst forms of) child labour, keeping in mind the effect of the financial crisis. Different approaches will be discussed, such as special financial instruments to fight child labour and the contribution of cash transfers.			16.00-16.30 16.30-18.00	Coffee break	
				Discussion of the draft roadmap (plenary session)	
				In this session, the draft roadmap will be presented and participants will be invited to share their views and comments on this draft.	
			18.00-19.00 20.00-22.00	Reception	
				Dinner	



Ministry of Social Affairs and
Employment



International
Labour
Organization

Tuesday 11 May 2010

08.00-09.00	Registration	
09.00-10.00	Focus on Africa (plenary session)	
	No other region has as high child labour rates as Africa. Child labour in Africa is exacerbated by wars, civil strife, disease and governance problems. Yet, the child labour situation in the region is far from homogeneous. A few countries have made important progress. Others are ready to follow in their footsteps. The conference will in this plenary session give an opportunity to sharing good practices from which Africa – but also others – may benefit.	
10.00-10.45	Political awareness (semi-plenary session)	Tripartite action (semi-plenary session)
	While attention to child labour and its detrimental impact has markedly increased over the last twenty years, there is a need now to fight “child labour fatigue” and keep the issue high up on national agendas and in the international development and labour debate. This session will provide opportunities to discuss how to further mobilize political will to fight child labour, particularly in light of the social impact of the global economic crisis.	Action against child labour calls for strong alliances based on social dialogue. Industry and trade union action is most effective if carried out in tandem, reaching down the value and supply chains to the informal economy. In this session good practices in this area will be showcased and guidance of how to adapt these models to changing contexts will be provided.
10.45-11.15	Coffee break	

11.15-12.30	Parallel technical workshops under political awareness	Parallel technical workshops under tripartite action
	<p>1. <i>Action against slavery</i> The session will discuss children’s vulnerabilities to forced and bonded labour, trafficking, and armed conflict, specific ways to assist hardest to reach children, and ways to address root causes.</p> <p>2. <i>Action against commercial sexual exploitation of children & illicit activities</i> The session will discuss children’s vulnerabilities to sexual exploitation, organized crime, organized begging and drug trafficking, specific ways to assist hardest to reach children, and ways to address root causes.</p> <p>3. <i>Action against child labour in agriculture</i> Agriculture is the sector with the largest number of child workers. This session reviews the scope and nature of child labour from industrial plantations to household farms, from fishing to forestry; and discusses some of the current challenges and new opportunities.</p> <p>4. <i>Action against hazardous work</i> Children are still being exposed to extremely dangerous work in construction, mining, metal- and woodworking, and services of many kinds including domestic work. This session will present research on effects of hazardous work on children and adolescents and suggest some practical strategies for action.</p>	<p>1. <i>Social dialogue for effective responses to child labour</i> This session will discuss social dialogue - as a vehicle for change in the formal and informal economies, including agriculture; how business practice affects child labour from global value chains to local economies; and the role of cooperatives and multi-stakeholder initiatives.</p> <p>2. <i>Labour law, inspection and Corporate Social Responsibility</i> This session will discuss the role of tripartite consultation in developing good law and public policy; enforcement through (state) labour inspection; and the role of public services and Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives in promoting a culture of compliance and supporting remediation.</p>
12.30-14.00	Lunch break	
14.00-16.30	Closing ceremony (high-level plenary session)	
	In the closing ceremony it is expected that several special invitees will participate and that the conference’s outcome document, the roadmap, will be adopted.	

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Languages

The conference languages will be French, Spanish and English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in these three languages.

Location

The conference will be held in the World Forum Convention Center in The Hague.

Accommodation

Reservations have been made at several hotels located next to the conference venue for conference participants. A room can be booked by filling out the registration form.

Local transportation

Transportation from Schiphol Airport to the hotel and vice versa and local transportation for activities that fall within the programme of the conference will be arranged.

Registration

Registration for the conference can be done by filling out the registration form on the website: www.childlabourconference2010.com. For this you will need a password which can be found on the enclosed registration form. You can also send in a filled-out registration form either by e-mail to registration@childlabourconference2010.com or by fax to + 31 (20) 673 73 06. Please do so before Friday 16 April.

Information

For any questions regarding the registration, please contact Mrs. Carola Kruijmer by sending an e-mail to registration@childlabourconference2010.com. For any general questions regarding the conference, please contact Mrs. Kirsten den Dulk at info@childlabourconference2010.com.

For more practical information please visit www.childlabourconference2010.com regularly.

INVITATION 10 & 11 May 2010



The Hague Global Child Labour Conference 2010
Towards a World without Child Labour
Mapping the Road to 2016