

Concept note for a thematic session on

From Oslo to Durban: 25 years of continuous and increasing commitment to end child labour

at the V Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour, Durban, South Africa

Friday 20 May from 12:30 to 13:30 pm

The Background

There are almost three decades of history to look back on when it comes to the global movement on the elimination of child labour. Starting in 1997, the global community has come together at regular intervals to examine the progress and approach to the elimination of child labour.

Leading up to the 5th Global Conference on Child Labour, the previous Global Conferences were

- the Oslo International Conference on Child Labour (1997)
- The Hague Global Child Labour Conference (2010)
- the III Global Conference on Child Labour in Brasilia (2013)
- the IV Global Conference on Child Labour and Forced Labour in Buenos Aires (2017)

Each Conference had its own highlights, flavour, and thematic areas they focussed on. In addition, each had a distinct Outcome Document that tried to respond to the specific challenges and needs of the time. The Hague Roadmap highlighted the Worst Forms of Child Labour and the commitment to end them by 2016. The Brasilia Declaration aimed at accelerating a fully integrated campaign for the sustained eradication of all forms of child labour. The Buenos Aires Declaration promoted to reach, on time, SDG Target 8.7 on child labour. It also gathered over 90 pledges from ILO tripartite constituents, international and regional organizations as well as by many civil society organizations.

The 5th Global Conference has a strong focus on how to reinvigorate and amplify the prospects of reaching SDG Target 8.7, focussing particularly on the elimination of child labour in all its forms by 2025. This is in the context of the first measured increase in child labour in the last 20 years and the unique difficulties generated by the COVID-19 pandemic

The successive global conferences on child labour and more recently also on forced labour, have shown an increasing level of commitment to the elimination of child labour as shown by the recently reached universal ratification of C 182 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in 2020. At the same time there is also a strengthened commitment towards facing forced labour and trafficking, as shown by the significant number of ratifications already received by the ILO 2014 Protocol to Convention 29, 1930 on forced labour.



Issues to be addressed

The Legacy session will engage with representatives/Ministers of the previous host countries of the global child labour conferences (Norway, the Netherlands, Brazil, and Argentina) and with the current host country, South Africa as well as with the ILO. It will focus on experience sharing, highlighting the long history and the long road and global commitment towards the elimination of child labour, and more recently also of forced labour. It will address the following issues:

- What has been the legacy/commitment of each of the previous Global Conferences?
- What are some of the highlights previous host countries would like to share?
- What has been the commitment and momentum generated by each of the previous Conferences?
- Have there been advantages to hosting a Global Conference and has there been a legacy at the level of the host country?
- Link up of the positive history and contributions of the previous global child conferences to the Durban Call for Action

