



Concept note for a thematic session on

How a Comprehensive Decent Work Agenda can contribute to the elimination of Child Labour worldwide through a holistic and rights based approach

at the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour, Durban, South Africa

Monday 16 May from 16:45 to 17:30 pm

Context

The EU promotes decent work across all sectors and policy areas in line with a comprehensive approach that addresses workers in domestic markets, in third countries and in global supply chains. The Decent Work Worldwide Communication adopted on 23rd February 2022 sets out the internal and external policies the EU uses to implement decent work worldwide, putting this objective at the heart of an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Communication underlines that it is not only states that need to protect human rights, including labour rights, it is also the responsibility of companies to respect them, including along their supply chains. This is a key element of the EU's understanding of business responsibility in line with international standards. If companies make global profits, they also need to take global responsibility so the products that they sell are made in respect of human rights and the environment.

Operational Considerations

We propose to host an event in the form of an interactive information-sharing event, to complement the thematic plenary events. Our target audience is workers, employers, government and international organisations and non-governmental actors and any other actors interested in Decent Work Worldwide. The objectives of this event are to i) give visibility to decent work at the conference, ii) to open discussions with key stakeholders, iii) and to share information on the EU's decent work approach. We aim to have one participant physically present at the conference and EU speakers connecting through video. We estimate 70 physical attendees and up to 200 online attendees.

Operational Considerations

1. Defining Decent Work – 4 pillars
2. The role of the Decent Work Agenda in complementing the other approaches in the elimination of Child Labour
3. Presentation Overview of the EU Decent Work Worldwide Communication



4. EU Child Guarantee

5. Discussion

Background Information

The EU has taken strong action to promote decent work worldwide, contributing to the improvement in the lives of people all over the globe. The world has also seen a significant reduction over the past decades of the number of children in child labour. However, the number of children in child labour has increased by more than 8 million between 2016 and 2020, inverting the previous positive trend. At the same time, the global COVID-19 pandemic and transformations in the world of work, including through technological advances, the climate crisis, demographic changes and globalisation, highlight the need for a greater focus on Decent Work.

Against this background, the EU is committed to build on its existing engagement. Consumers are increasingly demanding goods, which are produced in a sustainable and fair way that ensures decent work of those that produce them. Europe sends a strong signal that business activities cannot be carried out at the expense of people's dignity and freedom. The EU economy is connected to millions of workers around the world through global supply chains. Decent work is in the interest of all workers, businesses and consumers - all workers have the right to fair and appropriate conditions.

In line with the EU's commitment to promote decent work in global supply chains, EU policies set frameworks for sustainable finance, support sustainable production and consumption, and strengthen the public sector in leading by example in public procurement activities. They are an essential element of the European Green Deal, which underlines that green and social sustainability need to go hand in hand to ensure a socially just transition worldwide.

