

Concept note for a thematic session on

Child Labour Free Supply Chains: Tackling Root Causes from Maker to Market

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

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

Overview

This side session focuses on addressing root causes of child labour in domestic and global supply chains, top to bottom. The gathering features a lively, roundtable conversation, facilitated by a seasoned moderator, joined by a range of stakeholders, including multi-national corporations; policy-makers; employers, rights advocates; and child labour survivors.

This lively dialogue with key stakeholders elevates critical strategies and actionable steps to reduce child labour in supply chains. This discussion comes at a critical moment as child labour is on the rise; more governments around the world are passing modern slavery, supply chain transparency and voluntary and mandatory due diligence laws; and companies are stepping up their responsible sourcing strategies to include child labour prevention and remediation.

While this moment holds significant promise, change can only be realised when there is accountability throughout the supply chain ensuring transparency; living wages; and rights, protection and remediation for children and workers at the bottom in hidden and informal supply chains.

Discussants will share practical ways to work towards achieving these objectives, including:

- Supply chain traceability and monitoring to reach the hidden, informal workers who are most vulnerable to child labour and rarely included within company and third-party due diligence programs;
- Strengthened business policy frameworks and programs to prevent child labour;
- Social protections, education, fair compensation and the right to organize for all workers, including informal labourers;
- Remediation and restoration for child labour survivors;
- Effective advocacy tools; and
- Enforcement of strong government policies to achieve lasting change.

