

Concept note for a thematic session on

CSO Forum - Enhancing partnerships and building alliances to eliminate child labour

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

Wednesday 18 May from 12:30 to 14:15 pm

Forum Objective

Strengthening partnerships and building alliances with CSOs working on different SDGs to accelerate the fight against child labour, i.e. with CSOs not directly focussing on the elimination of child labour

The Background

While progress has been made towards the elimination of child labour, it has also stagnated in recent years and more so with the ongoing pandemic. Accelerating progress will require doing things differently.

For civil society, it would obviously mean more alignment of their messages but also strengthening collaborations with each other on the ground and at policy level for leveraging collective strengths towards greater impact. But, it would also mean to strengthening engagement on the issue of child labour with other CSOs working on human rights and/or SDGs even though child labour may not be their key focus/thematic area (referred to as non-traditional anti-child labour CSOs for the purpose of this concept note). Why? Because as we already know that most SDGs are interlinked, and progress on a particular goal can contribute to progress on another. SDGs related to poverty, hunger, health, education, gender, clean water, decent work, climate change, adequate housing, inequality, etc are connected to the elimination of child labour. A specific example of integration of child labour issues as a hard-to-reach category of children in the work of SDG 4 on education is an obvious case in point.

But the reverse is also true. For example, if a living wage programme that doesn't include an intervention on the availability of cheap labour outside its production area will fail to address child labour. Similarly, programmes on migrant labour rights that don't include the issue of migrant child



labour will lack sustainability. This also goes for climate change programmes given that climate change has been known to cause displacements and hunger for families, increasing their vulnerability and chances of resorting to child labour.

The above examples are indicative. The idea is how can child rights/elimination of child labour be on the forefront, or a key element of all programme development related to human rights/SDGs.

