

Concept note for a thematic session on

Legacy Session

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 2022, 12.30 – 13.30

The Background

There is significant history to look back on when it comes to the global movement on 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) and the IV Global Conference on Child Labour and Forced Labour in Buenos Aires (2017).

Each Global Conference had a specific Outcome Document such as The Hague Roadmap, the Brasilia Declaration, and the Buenos Aires Declaration. The Outcome of each Conference was distinct and responding to the 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 and gathered over 90 pledges from ILO tripartite constituents, international and regional organizations as well as by many civil society organizations. Each Conference had its own highlights, flavour, and thematic areas they focussed on.

This means that each Conference tried to respond to the specific challenges of the time. During the last Global Conference (Buenos Aires 2017), special attention was given to public policies governance addressing child labour and forced labour; to knowledge, data and monitoring; as well as to partnerships and innovation.

The 5th Global Conference, has a strong focus on how to revigorated and increase the possibilities of reaching SDG Target 8.7, in particular, regarding child labour elimination in all its forms by 2025. This is, at least, explained by the recent increase of child labour, vis-à-vis the previous Global estimates in 2016; as well as by the current increased difficulties generated by the COVID-19 pandemic to reaching



Target 8.7 in 2025. Other questions, such as the transition from the informal to the formal economy; and the generation of employment and decent work for the prevention, recovery, peace, and resilience with respect to crisis situations arising from conflict and disasters. Other questions such as the Climate change, that is increasingly becoming extremely important, will also be discussed at this Conference.

The successive global conferences on child labour and more recently also on forced labour, have shown an increasing level of commitment, in one hand, on 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; and in the other in the increased 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. 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

