

Concept note for a thematic session on

Innovation and partnership in Latin America and the Caribbean: the formula for a region moving closer to ending child labour

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

Tuesday May 17 from 14:45 to 16:30 pm

The Background

Over the past 10 years, Latin America and the Caribbean has demonstrated sustained progress in reducing child labour. In 2014, after the III Global Conference on Child Labour, held in Brasilia with the participation of 13 countries in the region, the countries decided to initiate a joint political agreement: to establish the Regional Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour, a platform designed with the aim of accelerating the pace towards achievement of Target 8.7 of the 2030 Agenda, which calls to end child labour in all its forms. The challenge set was a region free of child labour and, over the last 8 years, the Regional Initiative has been developing innovative strategies and new ways of building information and knowledge to address child labour, thus designing an effective formula to enable countries to achieve this goal. However, the challenges are not few. The latest report on global estimates of child labour (ILO-UNICEF, 2021) shows an alarming increase in this reality worldwide: for the first time in 20 years, not only has this scourge not been reduced, but in 2020 - and not counting the effects of the pandemic - there were 8 million more children and adolescents in this situation, compared to 2016. Notwithstanding the global trend, the Latin American and Caribbean region has managed to sustain the reduction of child labour by driving its innovative formula through three crucial components: political agreement among countries, territorialization of the approach to child labour and strategic alliances. Despite the proven, sustained, reduction in the region, the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the risk of child and adolescent labour and adolescent hazardous work. According to ILO and ECLAC estimates (2020), up to 300 thousand children and adolescents could enter this situation. In addition to this context of vulnerability, it should be noted that some countries in the region are now considered middle-income countries, which makes it more difficult for them to access international cooperation support. It is urgent that these and other challenges be considered to prevent a reversal in the progress achieved. In this context, the Regional Initiative is organizing a side event within the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour, entitled "Innovation and partnership: the formula for a region moving closer to ending child

labour". High-level representatives of governments, employers' organizations, workers' organizations, and development partners will participate in this exchange space. With only three years to go before the deadline given by the 2030 Agenda to end child labour, the 5th Conference is a historic opportunity to share, among countries, regions and sectors, the learnings and good practices that are achieving successful results in addressing child labour; as well as to reaffirm the global commitment to achieve Target 8.7, as part of the COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery strategies.

Event objectives

- Share the key components that constitute the driving force for Latin America and the Caribbean in the prevention and eradication of child labour.
- Address the impact of innovation and of building a strong partnership network to sustain progress against child labour. Thematic axes
- Impact of South-South cooperation and tripartite social dialogue as effective modalities of action. • Integrative actions on priority themes/sectors.
- Contributions and collaboration of development partners for the territorialization of actions in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

