



**5TH GLOBAL CONFERENCE
ON THE ELIMINATION
OF CHILD LABOUR**
DURBAN, 15-20 MAY 2022

South Africa has been active in the ILO since re-admission after 1994. As part of its outlook through its foreign policy, South Africa thrives to make a difference by contributing to multilateralism as well as to a fair and just world. Our difficult history and painful experience inform our position and commitment to justice.

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The timing of the Fifth Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour is significant since it comes when the world of work is rapidly changing and presenting a number of uncertainties that require collective action and approach.



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The concern about child labour is extremely important as we all grapple with the challenges of today and those we expect from tomorrow. We need to guarantee fundamental rights at work and also build resilient labour markets that are supported by institutions and policies that ensure sustainable growth and jobs.

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With the Conference, South Africa wants to leave a mark in terms of its commitment to humankind. Child labour matters are critical to justice-seeking and promotion of human rights-based global system.

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The discussion on global supply chains is one of the topics that features in this week's programme of the Conference.

South Africa insisted on its inclusion among the streams due to its importance when dealing with decent work deficits and child labour.



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The employment relations in mines and farms are such that they produce informality, child labour and other related challenges. That is the reason that South Africa supports the current suggestions about the improvement of decent work in global supply chains.

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South Africa takes the issue of child labour very seriously. The country subscribes on the centenary declaration on the future of work that is premised on human-centred approach. The conference gives us an opportunity to show our commitment to eliminating child labour.

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Child labour is an international conversation that needs to be domesticated and simplified. It must be taken to the community level for the severity of it to be understood among all. The call for commitment on the international level was key in all conversations. Government's need to guarantee fundamental rights, health and safety, adequate living wages, and of course some control over working hours.



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**Child labour is unacceptable and must be condemned.
The South African Government has adopted a zero-tolerance
approach towards child labour and will bring perpetrators to
book.**

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