



Concept note for a thematic session on

Youth, student and survivor-led action to end child labour by 2025

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

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

The background

Africa is now home to more child labourers than the rest of the world combined, and it is predicted that the number of children forced to work globally will increase to almost 170 million by 2022.

Young people, student leaders and survivor advocates have been on the frontlines of the effort to eliminate child labour in Africa and across the world, uniting across communities and countries to defend every child's right to be free. Despite facing unprecedented challenges during COVID-19, they led impressive actions, initiatives and awareness campaigns to ensure their most vulnerable peers were not left behind.

From pioneering a new multi-sectoral coalition to end child labour in Tanzania; involvement in the drafting of the New National Action plan in Uganda; raising awareness against the recruitment of children into armed groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo; leading efforts on developing assessment tools for measuring child labour free communities in Ghana, creating child-friendly training on tackling child labour in Colombia and influencing major policy outcomes at the global level, this side-event will showcase the powerful role youth- and student-led action plays in ending child labour.

Led by youth activists, child labour survivor-advocates and student leaders alongside a Nobel Peace Laureate, the event aims to explore the intersectionality of injustices driving marginalisation and inequality that not only leads to child labour but also denies millions of children their right to education. The event will also discuss the interconnected role universal social protection, ambitious policymaking and sustainable financing plays in ending child labour and why the meaningful engagement of young people, students and survivor-advocates is critical to achieving this change.

An inspiring call to action for all stakeholders to meaningfully engage and collaborate with young people, students and survivor-advocates in the implementation of the V Global Conferences agreements will close the event.

