

Title:

Asia Region Tripartite Consultation on Draft Guides for the Preparation of National Child Labour Policies and Action Plans and on Mainstreaming Child Labour Concerns in Broader Policy Frameworks

Code: A352368	Duration: 3 days	Dates: 23-25 November 2009
Venue: Bangkok, Thailand	Course language: English	

Background

The International Labour Organization (ILO) has a long standing commitment to work for the elimination of child labour. In 2006, the ILO called on its member States to “continue to pursue the goal of the effective abolition of child labour by committing themselves to (...) *the elimination of all worst forms of child labour by 2016*”. To this end, all member States were urged to “design and put in place *appropriate time-bound measures by the end of 2008*”. A Global Action Plan was also endorsed to guide the ILO in supporting national and international initiatives.¹ Mainstreaming of child labour concerns in broader policy frameworks is a pillar of the Global Action Plan.

With a view to promoting and facilitating national efforts along these lines, the ILO’s International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) has drafted two Guides, one on the preparation of National Child Labour Policies and Action Plans and another on Mainstreaming Child Labour Concerns in Broader Policy Frameworks.² They highlight the key issues and offer guidance for the benefit of ILO constituents and IPEC staff. The guidelines are based on assessments of recent experiences, whether or not involving IPEC, and are subject to review and refinement over time as appropriate. An initial technical consultation was held in November 2008 at the ILO’s International Training Centre in Turin, Italy.

¹ ILO, *The End of Child Labour: Within Reach*. Global Report under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, Report I(B), International Labour Conference, 95th Session, 2006, Geneva, p. 85 (emphasis in the original).

² ILO/IPEC, “Draft guide for the preparation of national child labour policies and plans, version 2”, October 2009, Geneva; and ILO/IPEC, “Mainstreaming child labour concerns in broader policy frameworks: Selected issues and guidelines, version 2”, October 2009, Geneva.

Experiences and lessons learned from all regions are necessary to enrich the guidelines and broaden their relevance and appeal to a wide range of stakeholders. Accordingly, three regional tripartite consultations are planned for Africa, Asia, and Latin America during late 2009 and early 2010 to discuss and validate the draft guidelines. The consultations will involve countries that have already made significant progress towards the development of their national child labour policies and action plans and mainstreaming child labour concerns in broader policy frameworks.

The Asia Region consultation is planned for 23-25 November 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the participation of tripartite delegations from nine countries: Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. The selection of countries is based on the existence of relevant policy documents and their potential contribution to the improvement of guidelines through lessons learned and good practices.

Participants' profile

The participants will include (i) tripartite delegations from countries with experience of formulation and implementation of national child labour policies and action plans as well as of mainstreaming child labour concerns; and (ii) ILO and IPEC staff at the headquarters and in the field. Given the technical nature of the Consultation, the participants are expected to be acquainted with the relevant processes in their own countries.

Objectives and methodology

The main objective of the Consultation is to help improve and technically validate the two draft Guides. In addition, it is hoped that the Consultation will also contribute to strengthening national capacities to develop and implement child labour policies and action plans, as well as promote intra-regional collaboration and cooperation.

The work of the Consultation will be carried out in plenary sessions as well as in working groups. The two background documents for the meeting will be sent to the participants in early November. In order to make the meeting more productive, each participating country will be expected to be prepared to discuss the following questions:

- What have been the most and the least successful aspects of your country's experience with the formulation and implementation of national policies and action plans on child labour, including mainstreaming / integration of child labour issues in national development and sectoral policies and plans? What major factors account for these successes or lack thereof?
- What are the prospects of your country reaching the goal of no worst forms of child labour by 2016? How can these prospects be improved? In what way can the ILO be most helpful to your country in reaching that goal?
- What major recommendations do you have for making the two Guides more useful to policy makers, planners and practitioners concerned with child labour in your country?

Language

The Consultation will be held in English.