SDG Alliance 8.7
Joining forces globally to end child labour, forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking

Draft for consultation
In September 2015, world leaders adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of seventeen inter-related, mutually reinforcing and universally applicable goals, to frame the global development vision for the next 15 years. Under each of the SDG goals, targets essential to achieving the goals have been identified.

**SGD Target 8.7** calls on all to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of all forms of child labour as an essential step to achieving decent work for all, full and productive employment and inclusive and sustained economic growth.

The process leading to the formulation of these goals has fostered an understanding that all parts of society, including governments, social partners, development partners, academia, businesses and others, must work together in new and innovative ways to achieve the ambitious and aspirational goals of the SDGs.

Ending child labour and modern slavery will require integrated thinking, coordinated actions, effective policy-making and efficient use of resources. Globally, there are numerous actors, from the smallest grassroots groupings to UN agencies, working to end child labour and slavery. Each of them can use their experience, their outreach and their resources to deliver results that can move societies closer to ending these two basic human rights violations.
Framing the challenge

The realization of fundamental principles and rights at work stands as a goal in itself. The ILO strives for a world in which there is no child labour, no forced labour and no discrimination, and where all are free to organize and to defend their interests. With the adoption of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up in 1998 and the subsequent adoption in 2008 of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, both ILO and its Member States made a commitment to adopt integrated approaches to achieving decent work and advancing social justice, including realizing the goals of ending child labour and forced labour or modern slavery as enshrined in international labour Conventions and their Recommendations, and other international instruments as follows:

- Child Labour Conventions and Recommendations (C138 and R46; C182 and R90)
- United National Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Hague Roadmap for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 2011
- Brasilia Declaration on Child Labour, 2013
- Forced Labour Conventions, Recommendations and Protocols (C29, P29, R35 and R203; C105)
- The Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children

Significant progress has already been made towards the elimination of child labour and forced labour in the last two decades. Many challenges however remain and lessons learnt need to be critically assessed. In order to reach Target 8.7, the annual rate of reduction of child labour must be accelerated, and stronger efforts are required to achieve a significant reduction in forced labour.

Concerted global action against child labour commenced in the mid-1990s, whereas the world really only woke up to contemporary forced labour in the mid-2000s. For child labour, the period 2008–2012 saw a substantial reduction, whereas no such decline has been witnessed yet in forced labour, despite policy and other responses being put in place in many countries.

However, 168 million children are still in child labour, with about half of them in hazardous work and other worst forms. According to the ILO’s global estimates on forced labour, an estimated 21 million people are in forced labour, more than half of whom are women and girls. One quarter of these 21 million people are children below the age of 18. Available data indicate that numbers of people in forced labour are not yet going down and may even be on the rise.

A major challenge will be to strengthen and better coordinate on-going efforts, pool resources in order to scale up successful interventions and monitor progress towards achieving this target. While the agreed monitoring framework of the SDGs is still under negotiation, a consensus has emerged that action and monitoring will mainly take place at the national level, with complementary action and monitoring at regional and global levels. The SDGs monitoring framework will have to take into account the complexity of the targets while serving also as a practical tool for policy making and for measuring progress.
Why a New Alliance?

• The scale of the challenge demands urgent attention: 168 million girls and boys in child labour, with almost half of them involved in a worst form of child labour, despite significant reduction in recent years; 21 million women, men and children trapped in forced labour, $150 billion illicit profits generated annually from forced labour.

• The universal support for the Sustainable Development Goals is already generating renewed momentum to end child labour, forced labour, slavery, and trafficking.

• Separately, many partners and stakeholders have taken measures to impact on these gross human rights’ violations, but more needs to be done. Only through joining forces, sharing knowledge and coordinating actions will it be possible to achieve the extremely ambitious Target 8.7.

• Duplication of efforts must be avoided and the best solutions brought to scale.

• Technological innovation presents unprecedented opportunities to share knowledge and to monitor progress collectively.
SDG Alliance 8.7

Through concerted and focused action involving multiple actors, the world community can live up to its commitments and achieve Target 8.7. But there is an urgent need to coordinate this endeavour, both within and beyond the UN system. With no time to lose, the ILO therefore proposes to bring together all interested parties through a multi-stakeholder SDG Alliance 8.7.

Once partners of the SDG Alliance 8.7 have agreed on the mission and goals, a detailed success matrix will be developed to evaluate the contribution of the Alliance to improved coordination and impact with regards to Target 8.7.

Vision

A world free from:
• Child labour in all forms, with particular attention to the worst forms of child labour; and
• Forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking.

Mission

To assist all member States of the United Nations in achieving Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

Goals

Achieve a significant decrease in the number of persons in child labour and forced labour, through:
• Increased global awareness on the problem and solutions;
• Powerful advocacy for high-level commitment;
• More effective policies and action plans, including a sharper focus on prevention;
• Coordinated and coherent action at the global, regional and country level;
• Better coordination, monitoring and knowledge sharing;
• Support for new and innovative initiatives; and
• Creation of a global financing facility.
Partners and governance

SDG Alliance 8.7 sets out to be inclusive, involving governments, workers' and employers' organizations, UN agencies, regional organizations, partners for development, the private sector, civil society organizations, academia, experts, the media and others, to support the attainment of Target 8.7.

Roles, responsibilities, and principles of partnership under the Alliance will be developed in consultation with various partners. The SDG Alliance 8.7 will bring the added value of engaging with public and private development partners in a more coordinated manner to avoid duplication of efforts and to channel funding towards proven practices for replication and scale and ensuring continued focus on root causes and sustainable policy change. The Alliance will start with a very light and flexible governance structure in its initial start-up phase, allowing for modification, improvement and consensus between the partners to develop overtime into a more formal structure.

Budget and work plan to set up SDG Alliance 8.7

SDG Alliance 8.7 will require sustained funding to maintain a high profile and to accomplish its goals. For the time being, the ILO will provide seed funding to facilitate the inception phase, in particular consultations with key partners and launch of a web platform.

Upon agreement of the common principles to be respected by participating partners and the scope of SDG Alliance 8.7’s objectives and its oversight structure, a more detailed financial proposal will be developed to ensure that the Alliance has the necessary support to facilitate collaboration, share lessons learned and experiences between partners and develop appropriate monitoring systems.

Following the initial consultation held in New York in September 2015, which welcomed this initiative, progress has been made to further refine the strategy and hold further stakeholder consultations.

During the first half of 2016, priority will be given to the following action points:
- launching an online presence;
- facilitating virtual and face-to-face consultations with key partners;
- developing a communication and knowledge sharing strategy for consultation with key stakeholders and partners.
Proposed timeframe 2016-2017

2016
• Launch of web site
• Development of partnership matrix
• Consultations and coordination with other initiatives linked to Target 8.7
• Development of a communication strategy
• Development of a knowledge sharing strategy
• Meetings with core partners to agree on common principles, governance structure, action groups and other building blocks of the SDG Alliance 8.7
• Preparation of a funding proposal to support the work of the SDG Alliance 8.7

2017
• High-level launch of SDG Alliance 8.7
• Action groups begin their work
• Further development of knowledge gateway
• First Partnership Forum 2017