

BANGLADESH (2000-2017)¹

THE EFFECTIVE ABOLITION OF CHILD LABOUR

REPORTING	Fulfillment of Government's reporting obligations	YES, except for the 2002 Annual Review (AR). No change reports under the 2003 and 2004 ARs.	
	Involvement of Employers' and Workers' organizations in the reporting process	YES: According to the Government: Involvement of the Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF) and several national workers' federations (Bangladesh Workers' Federation (BWF), Bangladesh Garments and Textile and Leather Workers' Federation (BGTLWF), The Jatio Sramik League (JSL), Bangladesh Trade Union Centre (BTUC), Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal (BJSJ), Jatiya Sramik Federation (JSF), Jatiya Sramik Federation Bangladesh (JSFB), Jatiya Sramik Party (JSP), Bangladesh Steel Engineering Corporation (BSEC); Bangladesh Songjukta Sramik Federation (BSSF), Bangladesh Trade Union Songha (BTUS), Bangladesh Sramik Jote (BSJ), Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik League (BSJL), Bangladesh Trade Union Federation (BTUF), Bangladesh Trade Union Congress (BTUC), Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Sramik Karmacari Federal Union (CBA), Samajtantrik Sramik Front (SSF), Jatiya Sramik Jote Bangladesh (JSJB), National Workers' Federation (NWF), Jatiya Sramik Karmachary Jote Bangladesh (JSJJB), Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Forum (BJSF), Bangladesh Free Trade Union Congress (BFTUC), Bangladesh Sramik Federation (BSF), Bangladesh Sramik Kalyan Federation (BSKF), National Trade Union Federation (NTUF)) through communication of Government's report, and the National Co-ordination Committee of Workers' Education (NCCWE).	
OBSERVATIONS BY THE SOCIAL PARTNERS	Employers' organizations	2013 AR: Observations by the BEF 2012 AR: Observations by the BEF. 2009 AR: Observations by the BEF. 2008 AR: Observations by the BEF. 2007 AR: Observations by the BEF. 2006 AR: Observations by the BEF.	
	Workers' organizations	2015 AR: Observations by Women Workers' League (WWL). 2013 AR: Observations by the BSEC. 2012 AR: Observations by the CBA. 2010 AR: Observations by the JSL. 2009 AR: Observations by the BWF. Observations by the BGTLWF. 2008 AR: Observations by the BWF. 2005 AR: Observations by BMSF. 2001 AR: Observations by BSSF. Observations by the World Confederation of Labour (WCL).	
EFFORTS AND PROGRESS MADE IN REALIZING	Ratification	Ratification status	Bangladesh ratified in 2001 the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) (C.182). However, it has not yet ratified the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) (C.138).

¹ Country baselines under the ILO Declaration Annual Review are based on the following elements to the extent they are available: governments' reports, observations by employers' and workers' organizations, case studies prepared under the auspices of the country and the ILO, and observations/recommendations by the ILO Declaration Expert-Advisers and by the ILO Governing Body. For any further information on the realization of this principle and right in a given country, in relation with a ratified Convention, please see: www.ilo.org/ilolex.

<p>THE PRINCIPLE AND RIGHT</p>		<p>Ratification intention</p>	<p>YES, since 2001, for C.138.</p> <p>2017 AR: The Government reported that the economy and educational facilities are being developed in Bangladesh. Substantive measures have been taken for reduction of poverty and enhance social protection. Huge informality is main impediment to the ratification of the Convention No 138.</p> <p>2015 AR: According to the Government: Considering the entire gamut of socio-economic condition of Bangladesh, particularly the limitations lying with manpower and resource constraints, the implementing authorities are facing challenges in terms of effective monitoring and implementation to address the large informal sector where child labour is inevitably engaged. Realizing the ground realities it would take more time for Bangladesh to ratify C.138.</p> <p>2014 AR: According to the Government: Considering the level of socio-economic development of Bangladesh, particularly the limitations in terms of manpower and resource constraints of the implementation authorities to address the large informal sector where children are engaged, it would take more time for Bangladesh to ratify Convention No. 138 and effectively monitor proper implementation.</p> <p>2013 AR: The Government reiterated the statement it made under the 2011-2012 ARs, and indicated that tripartite consultations are going on to amend the labour laws to better promote and implement the principle and right (PR) in the country.</p> <p>According to the BEF: Ratification of C.138 is necessary for Bangladesh in the elimination of child labour. In this regard, the country needs to strengthen its implementing and monitoring mechanisms.</p> <p>The BSEC expressed its support for the ratification of C.138 and indicated that the labour laws are being revised to be in full compliance with the PR.</p> <p>2011-2012 ARs: According to the Government: Given the level of socio-economic development of Bangladesh, and particularly the limitations in terms of manpower and resource constraints of the implementation authorities to address the large informal sector where child labour is engaged, it would take more time to ratify C.138 and effectively monitor proper implementation.</p> <p>The CBA supported ratification of C.138.</p> <p>2011 AR: According to the Government: The National Child Labour Policy formulated in March 2010 has the objectives of abolishing hazardous child labour from Bangladesh by 2015 in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Given the level of socio-economic development of Bangladesh, and particularly the limitations in terms of manpower and resource constraints of the implementation authorities to address the large informal sector where child labour is engaged, it would take more time to ratify C.138 and effectively monitor proper implementation.</p> <p>2010 AR: The Government stated that a parliamentary committee has been set up to study the future ratification of C.138.</p>
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			<p>2008 AR: The Government mentioned its intention to ratify C.138.</p> <p>According to the BEF: The BEF supports the Government’s present approach and policy measures. The Tripartite Consultative Council has agreed that, for the time being, ratification of C.138 is not advisable in view of implementation problems and has decided that elimination of child labour in the worst forms of employment should be given priority in view of the exploitation nature of employment.</p> <p>The BWF expressed its support for the ratification of C.138 by Bangladesh.</p> <p>2007 AR: The BEF expressed its support for the ratification of C.138 by Bangladesh.</p> <p>2003 AR: The Government reiterated its intention to ratify C.138.</p> <p>2001 AR: The Government stated that it had the intention to ratify C.138 and C.182.</p>
	<p>Recognition of the principle and right (prospect(s), means of action, basic legal provisions)</p>	<p>Constitution</p>	<p>NIL.</p>
		<p>Policy, legislation, and/or regulations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy: <p>2015 AR: According to the Government: The National Occupational Safety and Health Policy-2013, the National Labour Policy 2012, The National Skills Development Policy 2011, the National Children Policy 2011, the National Women Development Policy 2011, and the National Plan of Action (NPA II, 2003-2015) have been adopted.</p> <p>2014 AR: According to the Government: Bangladesh has adopted a National Plan of Action (NPA) for implementing the “National Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010” in March, 2010. Steps are being taken to implement the National Plan of Action. The Ministry of Labour and Employment has drafted the “Domestic Workers’ Protection and Welfare Policy”. This will obviously help to protect the rights of domestic workers as well as child domestic workers from the worst forms of child labour. This policy will be adopted in due course of time. Furthermore, the Government has adopted National Education Policy, 2010 which aims to ensure compulsory and free primary education for every child up to grade eight (average age 14 years). Based on this policy the Government has drafted National Education Act, 2013 which will provide legal basis for ensuring universal free primary education and will contribute elimination of child labour in Bangladesh.</p>

		<p>2012 ARs: According to the Government: The National Child Labour (CL) Elimination policy 2010 has the objective of abolishing child labour from Bangladesh by 2015 in line with the Millennium Development Goal (MDG). While working toward this goal, many progresses and projects are being made at the National level to eliminate child labour in Bangladesh in coordination with different ministries: (i) The National Child Labour Unit (CLU) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MOLE) which serves as a secretariat dealing with child labour issues has implemented a Child Labour Monitoring Information System (CLMIS) which will be available through the CLU website (www.clu-mole.gov). The National Child Labour Policy formulated in March 2010 has the objectives of abolishing hazardous child labour from Bangladesh by 2015 in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The third phase was started in July 2012 targeting to withdraw 50,000 children through non-formal education and skill development training; (ii) The Ministry of Primary education has also adopted the National Plan of Action (NPA II, 2003-2015) For Education for All (EFA) to achieve the MDG and gives pre-eminence to improving the quality of education, gender equity for both boys and girls, making education inclusive, accessible and provided for all; and (iii) The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA).</p> <p>2011 AR: According to the Government: A “National Child Labour Policy” has been formulated in March 2010. National District/Sub-District level Monitoring Committees have been set up, and a National Plan of Action is being developed.</p> <p>2009 AR: According to the Government: The draft Child Labour Employment Policy, 2008 (in line with C.138 and C.182) is now its final shape.</p> <p>2008 AR: The Government indicated that the National Child Labour Policy would be adopted by the Bangladeshi Parliament by the end of 2007.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation: <p>2015 AR: According to the Government: The following Acts have been adopted: i) The Children Act 2013 promulgated where the determining age of a child has been increased from 16 to 18; ii) Overseas Employment and Migrant Welfare Act, 2013; iii) Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2013; vi) the Neuro-Developmental Disabled Protection Trust Act, 2013; v) The Pornography Control Act, 2012; vi) the Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Act-2012; and vii) the Vagrancy Act 2011.</p> <p>2014 AR: According to the Government: The following actions have been taken: (i) A list of 38 hazardous works for the children has been adopted on 5 March 2013 which has been published in the gazette on 10 March 2013.</p> <p>2008 AR: According to the BEF: The Labour Act, 2006 was promulgated. This Act established not only minimum age requirements but put emphasis on strengthening the labour administration machinery to enforce legal measures.</p> <p>The revised and updated draft of the Labour Code prepared by the Bangladeshi Labour Law Commission is under active process of gaining approval by the competent authority.</p>
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		Basic legal provisions	(i) The Children Act 2013; (ii) the Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2013; (iii) the Pornography Control Act, 2012; (iv) the Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Act-2012; (v) the Vagrancy Act 2011; (vi) the Factories Act, 1965; (vii) the Employment of Children Act, 1938; (viii) the Shops and Establishment Act, 1965; (ix) the Road Transport Workers Ordinance, 1961; (x) the Tea Plantation Labour Ordinance, 1962; (xi) the Employment of Children Rules, 1955; (xii) the Children (Pledging Labour) Act, 1933; (xiii) the Mines Act, 1923; (xiv) the Factories Rule, 1970; and (xv) the Road Transport Workers' Ordinance, 1961.
		Judicial decisions	NIL.
Exercise of the principle and right	Compulsory education	YES, the age of children at the end of free compulsory schooling is 14 years for both boys and girls, with a general requirement of 9 years of grades or instruction.	
	Minimum Age	<p>2011 AR: According to the Government: Under the Bangladesh Labour Act 2006, the minimum age for admission to work is 14, with a general requirement of 8 years of grades or instruction.</p> <p>2003-2005 ARs: There is no general minimum age for admission to employment or work</p> <p>However, the Government states that the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) Act, 1980, provides that “no child before completion of 14 years of age shall be allowed to work in any factory”. Therefore, this minimum age covers work performed in export processing zones.</p> <p>Hazardous work: Minimum age of 18 years for both boys and girls (section 87 of the Factories Act, 1965)</p> <p>The Employment of Children Act, 1938, lists the following processes that are hazardous and thus, prohibited for children: (i) bidi-making; (ii) carpet weaving; (iii) cement manufacture, including bagging of cement; (iv) cloth-printing, dyeing and weaving; (v) manufacture of matches, explosives and fireworks; (vi) mica-cutting and splitting; (vii) shellac manufacture; (viii) soap manufacture; (ix) tanning; (x) wool cleaning.</p> <p>Hazardous work is defined in section 87 of the Factories Act, 1965, which makes a reference to Dangerous Operations.</p>	
	Worst Forms Child Labour	C.182 is ratified.	

	<p>Exercise of the principle and right</p>	<p>Special attention to particular situations</p>	<p>2014-2015 ARs: The Government indicated that particular emphasis has been paid to the Ready-Made Garment (RMG) and fish processing sectors. While under the ILO-IPEC project priority has been given to withdraw and mainstream the children engaged in hazardous works, appropriate legislative provisions would be framed in the light of the Child Labour Elimination Policy, 2010 for abolition of child labour in hazardous jobs.</p> <p>2012 AR: According to the Government: Child labour issues have been addressed and incorporated in all major national development projects with particular emphasis on: (i) RMG, Shrimp and fish processing sectors. At present there is no child labour in RMG; (ii) Under the ILO-IPEC project, priority has been given to withdraw and mainstream the children engaged in hazardous work; (iii) The National Plan of Action (NPA II, 2003-2015) for Education For All emphasizes the critical importance of education and learning for empowering people with knowledge and skills as key elements of human development and poverty reduction. It gives pre-eminence to improving the quality of education, gender equity for both boys and girls, making education accessible, inclusive and provided for all; and (iv) The Basic Education for Hard-to-Reach urban Working Children (BEHTRUWC) projects targets 200,000 working children of ages between 10-14 years for basic education through establishing 8,000 learning centers (LC) for a period of 40 months each and targets 20,000 children of age 13+ for livelihood education.</p> <p>2003 AR: According to the Government: Children in the 5 to 14 years age group are engaged in the following sectors: <i>bidi</i>, match, construction, domestic child labour, leather/tanneries, etc.</p>
		<p>Information/ Data collection and dissemination</p>	<p>2015 AR: According to the Government: 48 special schools for the disabled are being operated with 7,698 students. During the financial year 2013-2014, monthly stipends were distributed among 20,000 beneficiaries. A total of 270 hearing impaired children are getting free accommodation, education and training in 7 schools. Every year, a total of 100 intellectually disabled children (6-12 years) are getting need-based education from special institution for the intellectually disabled children. A strategic work plan has been devised to bring children with special needs and 120,562 children with special needs have been admitted in schools in 2014. A total of 389,719 marginalised children have been admitted in 12,869 centers in 52 districts. 35,234 orphan children have been studying in schools close to the orphanage. Education is provided in pre-primary education till class 5 in five ethnic languages subject to their choice. Steps have been taken to develop text books in 5 ethnic languages. 15,700 working children are studying in 91 primary schools supported by Children Welfare Trust. 166,150 students were given education kits including school bags.</p> <p>2012 AR: According to the Government: Eighteen (18) Cases of child labour have been filed. Moreover 90,000 Taka (i.e., about US\$ 1,170 as of 1 December 2011) have been collected as fine under section 284 in Bangladesh Labour Law, 2006. The Government utilizes the fine-money as revenue expenditure. The Basic Education for Hard-to-Reach Urban Working Children (BEHTRUWC) projects targets 200,000 working children of ages between 10-</p>

		<p>14 years for basic education through establishing 8,000 learning centers (LC) for a period of forty (40) months each and targets 20,000 children of age 13+ for livelihood education.</p> <p>2007 AR: According to the Government: The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS conducted a national child labour survey in 2003) in collaboration with ILO/IPEC and another national survey on determining hazardous child labour sectors during 2005-2006. The report was published in August 2006.</p> <p>2003 AR: According to the Government: Information is recorded on the number of children withdrawn from child labour and the number of ex-child labourers pursuing formal or non-formal education. However, it does not record information on sanctions applied to employers of child labour. As concerns statistical information on the extent and/or nature of child work, government surveys are carried out occasionally, and the last one was undertaken in 1996. The results of such surveys are presented separately by sex and age (5-14 years).</p>
	<p>Monitoring, enforcement and sanctions mechanisms</p>	<p>2012-2013 ARs: The Government stated that there are 157 inspectors in the Department of Inspection for Factories & Establishment under the Ministry of Labour and Employment who are responsible for enforcing laws against child labour in Bangladesh. In addition, the members of the Taskforce/monitoring team inspect the factory of RMG sector, Fish and Shrimp sector regularly for enforcing labour law 2006 to accelerate the effective abolition of child labour in the country. In general, the labour inspection machineries have been strengthened through the increase in the number of inspectors to combat child labour in factories all over the country.</p> <p>2011 AR: According to the Government: The strength of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) has been increased by recruiting a good number of inspectors. It indicated the strength of the department will increase further after setting up offices in newly created Administrative Divisions.</p> <p>2010 AR: According to the Government: A parliamentary committee has been set up to study the future ratification of C.138.</p> <p>2009 AR: According to the Government: A taskforce/monitoring team inspects the factory of the ready-made garment sector, fish and shrimp sector regularly with a view to enforcing labour law 2006 and accelerating the effective abolition of child labour.</p> <p>2007 AR: According to the Government: The Ministry of Commerce has set up a high-level Social Compliance Forum (chaired by the Minister of Commerce) for the garment industry to ensure, <i>inter alia</i>, compliance with labour standards in this sector. The Ministry of Labour and Employment is heading the Task Force on Labour Welfare in the RMG Sector.</p> <p>2003-2005 ARs: According to the Government: The following measures have been implemented to enforce minimum age(s) for employment and eliminate the worst forms of child labour: inspection/monitoring mechanisms; penal sanctions; special institutional machinery.</p> <p>2001 AR: According to the Government: Labour laws provide the legal framework for the inspection and monitoring of workplaces. These laws provide for penalties ranging from fines to imprisonment for violations of the legal provisions.</p> <p>2000 AR: According to the Government: Violation of any provision is a punishable offence. There are government labour inspections, e.g. general, medical and engineering inspectors that visit and inspect work premises as their routine work. The inspectors instruct employers about the provisions of the law</p>

	<p>and take legal action if and when a violation is found. There are also inspection teams comprising BGMEA, ILO and government labour inspectors.</p>
<p>Involvement of the social partners</p>	<p>2015 AR: According to WWL, social dialogue is ongoing but not regular.</p> <p>2012-2013 ARs: The Government stated that workshops and seminars on different issues of “Child Labour Elimination” had been organized by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, in collaboration with the social partners.</p> <p>2010 AR: The JSL indicated that one of its members had participated in several training sessions on the ILO Declaration, 1998, organised by the ILO in Australia and Malaysia.</p> <p>2009 AR: The BTF believed that child labour would be reduced to a considerable level if the present trend of promotional activities and participation of the social partners continued.</p> <p>2007 AR: According to the Government: Tripartite partners are represented in high-level committees such as the Social Compliance Forum under the Ministry of Commerce. Also, the employers and workers organizations participate in other child-related activities carried out by the Government and other agencies.</p> <p>2001-2005 ARs: According to the Government: Employers' and workers' organizations are involved in the implementation of Action Programmes. They are also active members of different committees such as the Tripartite Consultative Council National Steering Committee, and the Sub-Committee and Monitoring Committee.</p>
<p>Promotional activities</p>	<p>2017 AR: According to the Government: the following promotional activities have been undertaken: a) research; b) information/data compilation; c) training; d) awareness-raising; and e) Monitoring committees have been formed at Central, Divisional, District and sub-district levels with representatives from employers, workers other stakeholders.</p> <p>2015 AR: According to the Government: Workshops on different issues of "Child Labour Elimination" have been organized by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in collaboration with other social partners.</p> <p>2014 AR: According to the Government: In addition to past efforts, it is working to establish Child Labour Welfare Council (CLWC) at National/Divisional/District levels to coordinate all promotional activities carried out in the country by government organizations, non-government organizations as well international organizations. The MOLE has initiated process to place the Child Labour Unit of MOLE in the regular budget of the government. The existence of child labour in Bangladesh is closely linked to poverty. Unless the poverty situation of the country is improved at a satisfactory level it is very difficult to abolish child labour. This also depends largely on the achievement of high and stable growth of the country's economy for which the country is striving for long. However, with all its limited resources the Government of Bangladesh has been implementing programmes/projects on regular basis for abolition of child labour. The development partners have also come with funds to implement programmes on child labour. With all these efforts there has been remarkable success. At present there is no child labour in Readymade Garments (RMG) sector. Children are engaged mainly in informal sectors. It is expected that the volume of child labour in the country will be reduced to a considerable level if the present trend of promotional activities and participation of the social partners continue. Child labour issues have been incorporated in all major national development projects and plans (like Poverty Reduction Strategy-PRS, national plan of action for education and reflection in annual budget etc.). The country has gradually been increasing coverage of social safety net programmes for its citizens which directly or indirectly affect abolition of child labour. A number of projects and programmes have been underway as an instrument of promoting, reducing and eliminating child labour, including the following projects: the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Reform (TVET) project, the National Plan of Action (NPA II, 2003-2015) for Education for All (EFA), the Primary Education Development Programme, the Reaching Out-of-School Children (ROSC) project, the Female</p>

		<p>Secondary School Assistance Project, the Basic Education for Hard to Reach Urban Working Children, the Protection of Children at Risk (PCAR) Project, the Empowerment & Protection of Children (EPC) Project, the Community Based Working Child Protection Project, and the Actions for Combating Trafficking-in-Persons project.</p> <p>2012 AR: According to the Government: Various initiatives are taken to combat child labour in Bangladesh: The National Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010 has the objective of abolishing child labour by 2015 in line with the Millennium Development Goal (MDG). In July 2010, the MOLE has started implementation of a third phase of the project “Eradication of Hazardous Child Labour in Bangladesh” targeting to withdraw 50,000 children through non-formal education and skill development training. A national consultation workshop in determining the list of hazardous works was held in August 2010 in an attempt to finalize the list of hazardous works, in compliance with ILO standards. The country has gradually been increasing coverage of social safety net programmes for its citizens which directly or indirectly affect elimination of child labour. Child labour issues have been incorporated in all major national development projects and plans (like Poverty Reduction Strategy-PRS, national plan of action for education and reflection in annual budget etc.). Workshops and seminars on different issues of “Child Labour Elimination” have been organized by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in collaboration with the social partners. The employers’ organization actively advocate against child labour in several activities and public relations events.</p> <p>(1) Recently, the Government has taken measures to strengthen the inspection machineries by increasing number of inspectors.</p>
		<p>2011 AR: The Government indicated it had taken the following measures concerning the principle and right (PR): (i) An action Programme on “Enhancing the Capacity of the Child Labour Unit of the Ministry of Labour and Employment” is being implemented; (ii) A third phase of the project titled “Eradication of Hazardous Child Labour in Bangladesh (July 2009 to June 2012) has been initiated for implementation with Government funds, and it is being approved; (iii) A project on the “Urban Informal Economy Programme of the Project of Support to the Time Bound Programme on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Bangladesh is being implemented; (iv) A project titled “Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET:2008-2013) Reform in Bangladesh” (TBP) is being implemented in cooperation with the ILO; (v) Workshops/seminars on “Child Labour Elimination” have been organized by the Government in collaboration with the social partners; (vi) The employers’ organization actively advocate against child labour in all activities and public relations events; (vii) Ongoing awareness campaign against hazardous child labour are being carried out by the Government, the private sector, NGOs, and particularly the media; and (viii) The Birth and Death Registration Project 2009 is implemented by the Government under UNICEF funding</p> <p>2010 AR: According to the Government: The Ministry of Labour has been drawing up a Child Labour Policy and is trying to encourage children to go to school through a stipend system. NGOs have also been recruited to sensitize the population on the PR. Furthermore, the Government has been organising regular workshops with the stakeholders to sensitise them on the problem of child labour in the country.</p> <p>The JSL indicated that one of its members had participated in several training sessions on the ILO Declaration, 1998, organized by ILO experts in Australia and Malaysia.</p> <p>2008 AR: The Government stated that four workshops on the issue of child labour had been organized in collaboration with other social partners. A last one will be held on the 1st of July 2007 before the Child Labour Policy is drafted before the Tripartite Consultancy Council (TCC). The Government also noted the work undertaken by Save the Children (Denmark) that has been focusing on child labour along with the issue of child trafficking in Bangladesh.</p>

		<p>According to the BEF: Targeted programmes have been launched to reduce family’s dependency on child’s earnings; mothers receive food for education grants and also some assistance to start their own business. Moreover, endeavoring to achieve the MDGs, the Government has targeted the elimination of child labour from the ready-made garments sector where workers below the age of 14 are not allowed to work.</p> <p>The BWF mentioned that a campaign on the elimination of child labour had been carried out and that several workshops and trainings were also available.</p> <p>2007 AR: The BEF referred to its cooperation with ILO/IPEC.</p> <p>2003-2005 ARs: According to the Government: The following measures have been implemented to enforce minimum age(s) for employment and eliminate the worst forms of child labour: (i) free compulsory education; employment creation/income generation; (ii) child rehabilitation following removal from work; (iii) vocational and skills training for young workers; (iv) awareness raising/advocacy; and (v) international cooperation programmes or projects.</p> <p>The Government stated that since 1995, it had been trying to eliminate child labour through the ILO-International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).</p> <p>2003 AR: According to the Government: The Government has undertaken a project under the Annual Development Programme (ADP) with the assistance of USAID – namely, the Eradication of Hazardous Child Labour in Bangladesh. The project was to provide Non-Formal Education (NFE) and Skills Development Training (SDT) for 10,000 working children and micro-credit for 5,000 parents of child labour in Dhaka and the Chittagong Metropolitan areas, in shop factories, bangle-making, rickshaw/van pulling, fishery, book-binding, welding and automobile workshop sectors.</p> <p>2001 AR: According to the Government: with the help of IPEC, the three action programmes (AP) to combat child labour, launched since 1995, have been completed.</p> <p>It added that UNICEF provides funds for the implementation of the skills training programmes dedicated to students.</p> <p>The Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters’ Association (BGMEA) launched the “Earn and learn programme” in 1998 with the aim to implement the 1994 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).</p> <p>The Government also initiated a project called “Preventing and eliminating the worst forms of child labour in selected formal and informal sectors”. And the MOLE launched a project entitled “Eradication of hazardous child labour in Bangladesh” aimed to raise awareness on the negative consequences of hazardous work.</p> <p>2000 AR: According to Government: Formal and non-formal education is provided. Technical training is also given through “earn and learn” programmes. Scholarships, stipends and books are also granted to students.</p> <p>The Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 1994 with the ILO International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).</p>
	<p>Special initiatives/Progress</p>	<p>2017 AR: the government specified that awareness raising campaigns against child labour in the RMG and shrimp processing sectors can be considered as good practices which resulted in making these sectors free from child labour.</p> <p>2015 AR: According to the Government: The Directorate of Inspection for Factories and Establishments has been upgraded to a Department with manpower of 993 staff on 15 January 2014 and the total number of inspectors increased to 575. The total budget allocation for the Department has also been increased by three times for the fiscal year 2014-15. It further stated that there was recently a list prepared of the 38 most hazardous jobs and an Action Plan has been adopted for eliminating them. In a government project, 50,000 children have been stopped to work on hazardous jobs and received skill development training and non-formal education</p>

		<p>2013 AR: According to the BEF: As a result of the implementation of the National ILO/IPEC Programme, there is no child labour in the RMG sector. In addition, after successful awareness raising campaign, child labour is insignificant in the formal sector.</p> <p>According to the BSEC: Bangladesh has made important progress towards the education of the youth. Free tuition fees and many other stipends are being provided to children in order to encourage them in enrolling in the formal educational system of the country.</p> <p>2012 AR: According to the Government: As a result of the implementation of the National ILO/IPEC Programme, there is no child labour in the RMG sector.</p> <p>2011 AR: According to the Government: The Government formulated a policy for free and compulsory primary education where education for every child up to age 14 has been ensured. It is also initiating a special Code of Conduct for Domestic Workers to improve their working conditions.</p>
		<p>2009 AR: According to the Government: Workshops/seminars on the issue of child labour policy/Child Labour Unit have been organized by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in collaboration with the employers' and workers' organizations. And as a follow-up of the Time-bound Programme (TBP), the Government has established a Child Labour Unit.</p> <p>According to the BWT and the BGTLWF: Activities carried out include: (i) discussion of a draft Child Labour Policy at a tripartite Consultative Committee (TCC); (ii) approval by the TCC on the discussions held that led to the drawing up of an implementation plan which will be backed by a national law.</p> <p>2008 AR: The Government indicated that it was offering monthly scholarships in order to sensitize the population on the importance of education.</p> <p>According to the BEF: Bangladesh's success in withdrawing child labour from the garments sector has been appreciated nationally and internationally; awareness is spreading in other sectors. Some children have even been withdrawn and provided with non-formal education before their enrollment in formal schools. Bangladesh has made significant strides towards education for all programmes. Enrollment in primary schools has increased though attendance rates are low. Free education for the girls and education for food programmes have achieved rapid success in enrollment for education of children of poor families.</p> <p>2003-2005 ARs: According to Government: Since 1995 a good number of action programmes have been implemented successfully through Government agencies, employers' organizations, trade unions and NGO's.</p> <p>The MOU signed with the ILO in 1994 to work with IPEC can be considered as a successful example in the realization of the PR.</p> <p>2001 AR: According to Government: The child labour programme under the MOU can be regarded as a successful example in the realization of the principle and right (PR).</p>
<p>CHALLENGES IN REALIZING THE PRINCIPLE AND RIGHT</p>	<p>According to the social partners</p>	<p>Employers' organizations</p> <p>2013 AR: According to the BEF: Bangladesh is committed to comply with international labour standards and eradicate child labour in the country. However, 40 to 65 per cent of the population lives below the international poverty standard. The economic situation of the country and the insufficient monitoring capacity of government institutions are also challenges to the implementation of the PR in the country. Furthermore, recent technical assistance initiatives on the elimination of child labour are lacking efficiency because of the zonal system. This requests a more global approach.</p> <p>2008 AR: According to the BEF: Bangladesh shares the global concern about the health, safety and welfare of working children. In spite of rigorous laws regarding this,</p>

			<p>children in hazardous work is a reality that cannot be denied. Moreover, child labour is closely linked to poverty. About 60 per cent to 85 per cent of the people living in villages live in absolute poverty. Moreover, employment of children is seen mostly in the agriculture and informal sectors, which are both family enterprises and is thus more difficult to monitor the situation.</p> <p>2007 AR: According to the BEF, child labour is prevalent in the informal economy.</p>
		<p>Workers' organizations</p>	<p>2013: According to the BSEC: The main challenges to the realisation and implementation of the PR are as follows: (i) poverty; (ii) lack of skilled development training, and; (iii) lack of micro-credit to parents in developing entrepreneurial projects.</p> <p>2012 AR: According to the CBA: Child labour is not a widespread problem in the country. Due to a big population and a strong demand for labour in many sectors, it is however culturally accepted that some jobs are undertaken by children. Although any work is regarded as good work', child labour is considered as unlawful and not according to national legislation.</p> <p>2010 AR: According to the JSL: The main challenge to the realisation and implementation of C.138 for Bangladesh is the absence of Government's willingness to tackle child labour issues.</p> <p>2008 AR: The BWF indicated that child labour was observed mainly in the informal economy, especially in the rural areas where poverty is prevalent.</p> <p>2001 AR: According to the BSSF: There are no special organizations for child workers.</p> <p>The WCL identified the main difficulties encountered in Bangladesh in realizing the PR as follows: (i) a considerable number of children work in garment manufacturing; (ii) widespread poverty; (iii) historical and cultural factors; (iv) lack of sufficient educational facilities for all children; (v) exploitation of very poor children.</p>
	<p>According to the Government</p>		<p>2017 AR: According to the Government: Resource constraint for universal social protection, out of reach school children, huge informality, poverty and existence of huge family farms can be considered as the most critical challenges and difficulties hindering the effective abolition of child labour from Bangladesh.</p> <p>2015 AR: The Government reported that poverty and unemployment of adults are the major challenges. The centralized monitoring and implementation efforts are inadequate to reach the informal sector where child labour is prevalent. The informal sector is very wide and in disguise (an estimated 87% work in informal economy). It is difficult to adopt action plan for such sector.</p> <p>2014 AR: According to the Government: The most significant challenge is to strengthen the institutional capacity and to get required resources to combat child labour. There are inspectors in the Department of Inspection for Factories & Establishment under the Ministry of Labour & Employment, who are responsible to enforce laws against Child Labour as part of their duties. However, the number of inspectors is not sufficient to address the child labour issues. Very recently the Government has taken measures to strengthen inspection machineries in Bangladesh by increasing number of inspectors through restructuring the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments. The restructuring and strengthening process includes establishment of district level offices all over the country. In the process of</p>

		<p>restructuring and strengthening of this department, technical assistance is needed. The Government further reported that poverty and unemployment of adults are part of the major challenges. The centralized monitoring and implementation efforts are inadequate to reach the informal sector where child labour is prevalent. The informal sector is very wide and in disguise. It is difficult to adopt action plan for such sector.</p> <p>2013 AR: According to the Government: The major obstacles in promoting the PR are as follows: (i) the informal economy in the rural areas; (ii) poverty; (iii) socio-economic conditions; (iv) absence of consciousness on the PR by multinational enterprises, and; (v) lack of awareness raising campaign.</p> <p>2012 AR: The Government stated that the major obstacles to eliminate child labour in Bangladesh were as follows: (i) poverty and underemployment of adults; (ii) the institutional capacity (not enough labour inspectors for instance); (iii) limited government resources; (iv) the informal economy, i.e. the centralized monitoring and implementation efforts are inadequate to reach this sector where child labour is prevalent; (v) the level of socio-economic development and difficulty to achieve a high and stable growth are all together major obstacles against the elimination of child labour in Bangladesh.</p> <p>2010 AR: According to the Government: Socio-economic conditions are the main challenge to the elimination of child labour in Bangladesh.</p> <p>2009 AR: The Government stated that child labour was still prevalent in the informal economy and the agriculture sector, and was more closely linked to poverty.</p> <p>2008 AR: The Government stated that parents in the villages are still not sufficiently aware of the negative outcome of child labour. Moreover, it added that skill training is lacking in certain sectors such as in the garments, electronics areas. Moreover, skill trainings are lacking in certain sectors such as in the garments and electronic industries. The Bangladesh Workers' Federation (BWF) notes that child labour is prevalent in the informal economy, especially in poor rural areas. According to the Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF), health, safety and welfare of working children is a global concern. In spite of rigorous laws regarding children in hazardous work, the reality cannot be denied. Moreover, child labour exists in the agriculture and informal sectors, both of which are family enterprises, and this makes it more difficult to monitor.</p> <p>2006 AR: According to the Government: The main challenges in promoting the PR are as follows: (i) Harmonization and interpretations of existing labour laws with regard to minimum age for admission into employment; (ii) implementation and enforcement of the laws, particularly in the informal sector where child labour is more prevalent; (iii) the magnitude of child labour, particularly hazardous child labour which is currently estimated to be around 1.3 million; and (iv) multi-sectoral and complex nature of the child labour problem such as a weak cooperation among the large number of agencies, departments and actors, and high incidence of poverty leading to child labour.</p> <p>2003-2005 ARs: According to the Government: The main obstacles encountered in Bangladesh in the realization of the PR are the following: (i) lack of adequate awareness and education (skills development); (ii) lack of adequate policy laws and regulations; (iii) poverty; (iv) absence of general minimum age for admission to employment; (v) lack of adequate effective rehabilitation programmes; and (vi) lack of adequate institutional and logistic support.</p> <p>2001 AR: The Government stated that the informal sector is not covered by the law, which prohibits children's employment. As a result, labour inspectors cannot make any intervention in this sector.</p>
<p>TECHNICAL COOPERATION</p>	<p>Request</p>	<p>2017 AR: According to the Government: the most important technical assistance needs of Bangladesh are: a) Awareness raising training; b) Skill development training for income generation; c) Designing low cost social protection programs; d) Awareness raising, legal literacy and advocacy for hazardous sector; e) Replication of good practices; and f) Sector based flagship Programme.</p>

	<p>2015 AR: The Government reiterated the request it made under the 2014 AR and added that Bangladesh may be assisted with the good practices or modern concepts of programmes for effective abolition of child labour and through support to its TVET programmes and projects to attract marginalized children.</p> <p>WWL indicated that training and workshops are needed especially for union leaders.</p> <p>2014 AR: According to the Government: In addition to the ongoing technical cooperation in abolishing child labour on Urban Informal Economy, more assistance is required to address this issue among the street children, and in semi-urban and rural economy. However, since poverty has been the main challenge for effective abolition of child labour, technical assistance for overall socio-economic development of the country is very crucial. Unless the socio-economic conditions of the vast population of the country can be improved at a satisfactory level, the goal of effective abolition of child labour will remain unachieved. Bangladesh may be assisted with the good practices or modern concepts of programmes for effective abolition of child labour.</p> <p>2013 AR: According to the Government: ILO technical cooperation is requested in the following areas: (i) elaboration of awareness-raising programmes, especially for rural areas; (ii) database development; (iii) capacity building of tripartite partners; (iv) skill-based training; and (v) sharing of experience across countries/regions.</p> <p>The BEF requested ILO’s technical assistance to strengthen the monitoring capacity of the responsible government institutions and increase poverty reduction programmes. Moreover, a global approach in the technical cooperation would be more welcome rather than a zonal approach.</p> <p>The BSEC indicated that ILO’s technical assistance is needed in the following areas: (i) awareness raising campaign; (ii) skilled development training; (iii) increased micro-credit facilities; and (iv) elimination of poverty programmes.</p> <p>2012 AR: According to the Government: ILO technical assistance is particularly needed in the following areas: (i) abolishing child labour in urban informal economy; (ii) restructuring and strengthening the labour inspection machineries; and (iii) improvement of socio-economic conditions so as to help eliminate in child labour.</p> <p>The CBA requested the ILO to press the Government in implementing the existing national legislation so as to fight child labour.</p> <p>2010 AR: According to the Government: More ILO technical cooperation is needed, particularly in the following areas: (a) elaboration of awareness-raising programmes, especially for rural areas; (b) database development; (c) capacity building of stakeholders; (d) skill-based training; (e) social protection systems; (f) sharing of experience across countries/regions; and (g) inter-institutional coordination.</p> <p>The JSL requested ILO’s support on different needs on the PR to be worked out.</p> <p>2009 AR: According to the Government: More ILO technical cooperation is needed, particularly in the following areas: (a) elaboration of awareness-raising programmes, especially for rural areas; (b) database development; (c) capacity building of stakeholders; (d) skill-based training; (e) social protection systems; (f) sharing of experience across countries/regions; and (g) inter-institutional coordination.</p> <p>For the BTF, technical cooperation in the field of primary education and skill development can contribute a lot to eliminate child labour.</p> <p>The BWT and BGTLWF stated that there was a need for technical cooperation with a view to facilitating the elimination of child labour, including in its worst forms.</p>
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	<p>Offer</p>	<p>A project titled “Urban Informal Economy (UIE) programme of the Project of Support to the Time Bound Programme towards the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Bangladesh” has been approved by the Government of Bangladesh and is being implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the ILO.</p> <p>The Reaching Out-Of-School Children (ROSC) project aims at addressing children who do not have access to formal education mainly due to poverty. The project is co-financed by the GOB, the World Bank and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).</p> <p>ILO/IPEC (A time-bound programme for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour is being implemented); UNICEF; NGOs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – In October 2000, the ILO and the Dutch Government for the elimination of child labour signed a US\$4.8 million assistance agreement. With the extension of the project, the total funding commitment of the project is about 5.7 million USD and is scheduled to continue up to the end of 2006. – The Government is working with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on the Eradication of Hazardous Child Labour in the country, but also in combating human trafficking through the Actions for Combating Trafficking-In-Persons (ACT), funded by USAID through IOM. <p>European Union (EU): The Technical and Vocational Education and Training Reform (TVET) project is funded by the European Commission for a period of five years (2007-2011).</p>
<p>EXPERT-ADVISERS’ RECOMMENDATIONS/ OBSERVATIONS</p>		<p>2008 AR: The ILO Declaration Expert-Advisers (IDEAs) considered that universal ratification of the child labour Conventions was not a distant dream but an achievable goal, in view of the number of States, including Bangladesh, having expressed their intention to ratify C.138 and/or C.182 (cf. paragraph 56 of the 2008 Annual Review Introduction – ILO: GB.301/3).</p> <p>2005 AR: The IDEAs listed Bangladesh among the countries where some efforts were being made in terms of research, advocacy, activities, social dialogue, national policy formulation, labour law reform, preventive, enforcement and</p>

		<p>sanctions mechanisms and/or ratification (cf. paragraph 13 of the 2005 Annual Review Introduction – ILO: GB.292/4).</p>
<p>GOVERNING BODY RECOMMENDATIONS/ OBSERVATIONS</p>		<p>2015 AR: At its March 2014 Session, the Governing Body invited the Director-General to: (a) take into account its guidance on key issues and priorities with regard to assisting member States in their efforts to respect, promote and realize fundamental principles and rights at work; and (b) take account of this goal in the Office’s resource mobilization initiatives.</p> <p>2013 AR: At its November 2012 Session, the Governing Body requested the Director-General to take full account of the ILO Plan of Action on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (2012-2016) and allocate the necessary resources for its implementation. This plan of action is anchored in the universal nature of the fundamental principles and rights at work (FPRW), their inseparable, interrelated and mutually reinforcing qualities and the reaffirmation of their particular importance, both as human rights and enabling conditions. It reflects an integrated approach, which addresses both the linkages among the categories of FPRW and between them, and the other ILO strategic objectives in order to enhance their synergy, efficiency and impact. In this regard, freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining are particularly emphasized as enabling rights for the achievement of all these strategic objectives.</p> <p>2011 AR: At its March 2010 Session, the Governing Body decided that the recurrent item on the agenda of the 101st Session (2012) of the International Labour Conference should address the ILO strategic objective of promoting and realizing fundamental principles and rights.</p> <p>2009 AR: During its March 2009 Session, the Governing Body included the Review of the follow-up to the 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work on the agenda of the 99th Session (2010) of the International Labour Conference.</p>
<p>INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE RESOLUTION</p>		<p>2013 AR: In June 2012, following the recurrent item discussion on fundamental principles and rights at work, under the ILO declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008 and the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up, 1998, the International Labour Conference adopted the Resolution concerning the recurrent discussion on fundamental principles and rights at work. This resolution includes a framework for action for the effective and universal respect, promotion and realization of the FPRW for the period 2012-16. It calls for the Director- General to prepare a plan of action incorporating the priorities laid out in this framework for action for the consideration of the Governing Body at its 316th Session in November 2012.</p> <p>2011 AR: Following a tripartite debate at the Committee on the 1998 Declaration, the 99th Session (2010) of the International Labour Conference adopted a Resolution on the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work on 15 June 2010. The text appended to this Resolution supersedes the Annex to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and is entitled “Annex to the 1998 Declaration (Revised)”. In particular, the Resolution “[notes] the progress achieved by Members in respecting, promoting and realizing fundamental principles and rights at work and the need to support this progress by maintaining a follow-up procedure. For further information, see pages 3-5 of the following link: http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_143164.pdf.</p>