

Governing Body – 340th Session, October-November 2020

Policy Development Section

Workers' Group Comments

DOCUMENT FOR BALLOT BY CORRESPONDENCE

GB.340/POL/7(Rev.1)

Update on preparations for the V Global Conference on Child Labour

The Workers' group would like to thank the Office for the document.

We take note of the major developments highlighted in the first part of the report and we welcome the ratification of C182 by the Kingdom of Tonga resulting in the universal ratification of C182. While this is an historic milestone, much needs to be done to ensure that commitments are transformed into action and the ILO and its tripartite constituents have a crucial role to play in that regard.

We also welcome the ratification of C138 by Myanmar in June and call for a strong campaign for universal ratification of the minimum age convention in light of the UN year and upcoming world conference.

We are now in a crisis situation, where the right to health, education, the right to water, the right to an adequate shelter and decent work for the families, as well as, universal social protection are absolutely relevant and needed. Economic pressure on the poorest families is at critical levels and many may be forced to depend on child labour out of dire necessity. Political commitment to end child labour is more necessary than ever.

We therefore welcome the revised country level activities under the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) and forced labour and also the office's call for sustained and additional funding.

Due to the cancelation of the 338th session of the Governing Body in March 2020, we did not have the opportunity to provide our comments on the developments since the IV Global Conference on Child labour held in Buenos Aires. In that sense, we would like to welcome the 96 countries for their commitments through pledges. However, in the current document, we miss the information on the follow up on the 96 pledges and how their implementation was and will be evaluated, and if the Office is working to increase the number of pledges. Consistency with International Labour Standards, an integrated rights based approach based on decent work, and long term sustainability, should be the basis any review.

UN Resolution 73/327, declared 2021 the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, and the document refers to a roadmap that is being finalized. We would like to have further information about the roadmap and particularly on the involvement of social partners in this roadmap.

Current global estimates show a steady decline in child labour statistics, however, the progress before the COVID-29 pandemic was already too slow to achieve the 2025 deadline set by SDG

8.7 to end child labour in all its forms, and we fear that the impact of the pandemic may lead to an increase, if we do not do enough to prevent it. We therefore support the call for member States to redouble their efforts to keep up with the target.

In relation to the upcoming V Global Conference, we would like to welcome South Africa for its commitment to host the conference.

We would also like to request further clarification on the different consultations processes that are presented in paragraphs 10 and 11. We would like the Office to further clarify the process, and to convene a tripartite meeting as outlined in point b paragraph 14, to discuss the way forward.

Finally, the document GB.338/POL/4 that we could not discuss in March 2020, indicated in paragraphs 17 and 18 that there were several financial constraints for the development of the conference. Therefore, we would like to request further clarifications on the availability of funding for the 2022 Global Conference.

With these comments, we can support the decision point