

**IMEC statement on the update on preparation
for the V Global Conference on Child Labour**

- We thank the Office for the document GB.340/POL/7. We further thank the Republic of South Africa for their offer to host the V Global Conference in 2022.
- We thank the ILO for the systematic review of country activities under IPEC+. IMEC welcomes the progress made by the Alliance 8.7- and its midterm review on progress made in pathfinder countries. We also welcome the achieved universal ratification of ILO Convention No. 182, which is crucial for ensuring zero-tolerance to child labour and we urge for its effective implementation.
- IMEC sees great importance in keeping the issue of child labour high on the agenda, especially within the ILO, as the international organisation on decent work for all. As described by the ILO on the World Day against Child Labour this year: “a time of crisis, a time to act.”
- This is now true more than ever, since due to COVID-19 the progress made in the recent years could be reversed. Vulnerable groups, including children, are being hit harder than everyone else. The current crisis may force many of them (back) into poverty, causes direct health risks and blocks access to education. This causes an increased risk of exploitation and child labour, which may put an end to the positive trends and achieved results over many years in the fight against forced labour, human trafficking and child labour.
- In this context, IMEC looks forward to the roadmap created by the Office for the International Year of Child Labour, 2021.
- In light of the current circumstances, IMEC understands and supports the request made by South Africa to not organise the conference in 2021 as planned, but to postpone it to 2022. IMEC finds it very important and would like to encourage South Africa to organise this conference at the beginning of 2022, as a landmark for the way forward after the end of the International Year of Child Labour.
- The proposed approach of the Office regarding the
 - consultations with the Government of South Africa, as the host country, on preparations to hold the V Global Conference on Child Labour in 2022, including the perspectives of the different regions; and
 - the tripartite consultation in Geneva prior to the March 2021 GB to discuss the way forward, is fully supported by IMEC and we look forward to actively participate in these meetings.
- We urge the ILO to pursue its actions on child labour expeditiously after the 340th Governing Body to ensure momentum in organizing and realising the conference in the 2022, in whatever form possible, taking into account the developments regarding COVID-19.
- Ending child labour and promoting decent work for all is now more important than ever.
- IMEC supports the decision point.