



**European Union**

**Statement**

**340<sup>th</sup> Governing Body**

**2 – 14 November 2020**

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**Update on preparations for the V Global Conference on Child Labour**

**GB.340/POL/7**

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**Geneva, November 2020**

**ILO Governing Body 340<sup>th</sup> session**  
**November 2020**  
**GB.340/POL/7**

**Update on preparations for the V Global Conference on Child Labour**

**EU Statement**

This statement is made on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia\*, Montenegro\* and Albania\* and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

We align ourselves with the IMEC statement.

1. We would like to express our appreciation to the Government of the Republic of South Africa for their proposal to host the V Global Conference on Elimination of Child Labour and Forced Labour. While the Conference was initially intended to take place in 2021, the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, the EU and its Member States understand it must now be rescheduled to 2022.
2. We are very pleased to note the universal ratification of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No.182). However, we recall the need for enhanced implementation of Convention No.182, as well as Convention No.138 on the Minimum Age.
3. The EU is committed to guaranteeing the rights of the child in both its internal and external policies and will continue to cooperate with the ILO to stand up for the rights of every child to develop and reach their full potential in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols.
4. The EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024 highlights the priority to address child labour in actions to reinforce labour rights. The EU Guidelines on the Rights of the Child as well as those on Children in Armed Conflict continue to guide our actions towards promoting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of the child with a focus also on the elimination and prevention of child labour. This zero tolerance of child labour is also expressed in EU trade policy.
5. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the poverty situation on a global scale - one of the main triggers of child labour - and has imposed challenges to their education, development, safety and wellbeing.
6. It is absolutely vital to prevent a reversal or a standstill in the progress already achieved and to accelerate steps by all means in the fight against child labour and forced labour. We encourage the suggested overview of the realization into concrete actions of the pledges made three years ago in Buenos Aires. In this regard, we very much welcome the actions of IPEC+ Flagship Programme in addressing the impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable on the basis of the human-centred approach.

\*The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process

7. We encourage multi stakeholder engagement, together with coordinated urgent global action and underline the important role of Alliance 8.7 that combines the efforts of more than 200 partners towards achieving the SDG target 8.7. We welcome the progress made by the Alliance 8.7 that was presented in its new digital report and look forward to an update during the High-level Political Forum of ECOSOC in July next year.
8. With regard to the follow-up to the UN General Assembly resolution 73/327 on the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour – 2021, the EU and its Member States would like to see a comprehensive “road map” developed by the Office providing a meaningful framework for effective engagement of constituents, relevant stakeholders and partners . We look forward to the communication plan that is currently under development.
9. In view of the preparation of the V Global Conference on Child Labour and the efforts to achieve SDG target 8.7, the EU and its Member States support the Office in organising a tripartite meeting with representatives of permanent missions in Geneva and social partners and strongly encourage participation of other relevant stakeholders and development partners including EU, Alliance 8.7., FAO and UNICEF. The regional consultations with the tripartite constituents and other partners will also provide a good platform for outlining future steps.
10. The EU and its Member States have always encouraged an active and meaningful engagement on a tripartite basis on the issue of child labour. We support the proposed tripartite consultations. We underline the importance of the tripartite consultations to build on the steps taken so far by the ILO and Alliance 8.7. as well as on the actions in process.
11. The ILO can count on the support and active engagement of the EU and its Member States on this important matter. We support the decision point.

