

Report of the Meeting

Opening remarks

The 7th Child Labour Platform meeting took place from 17-18 October 2016 at Château de Penthes in Geneva under the auspices of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The agenda is outlined in Annex 1.

The meeting brought together CLP members, potential new members, as well as international experts for a two days review and strategic discussion on business engagement on the elimination of child labour. The meeting was chaired by Ms Linda Kromjong, Secretary General of the International Organization of Employers (IOE) and Mr Philip Jennings, General Secretary of UNI Global Union. Ms Kromjong welcomed the participants and highlighted the unique space provided by the CLP for businesses to share issues and solutions on the elimination of child labour, and the increased relevance of the platform in the context of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In her opening remarks, Ms Patricia Perren from the UN Global Compact Switzerland stressed the need to continue working together and scale up the outreach and work of the CLP. Ms Beate Andrees, Chief of ILO's Fundamentals Principles and Rights at Work Branch welcomed all participants and highlighted new global developments relevant to the CLP, including the launching of SDG Alliance 8.7, a multi-stakeholder coalition committed to the elimination of child and forced labour as well as the adoption by the ILO of Fair Recruitment Guidelines. She concluded by stressing ILO's commitment to the CLP and the opportunity given by the meeting to discuss the strategic orientation of the platform.

Thematic sessions

1. When child labour is found: expert insight on remediation of child labour

This session was chaired by Ms Linda Kromjong. An ILO expert presented key definitions and global data on child labour. He highlighted the importance of adopting a holistic approach to remediation of child labour that takes into account access to education and skills programmes, provides opportunities for youth employment, improves livelihoods for parents, develops community participation and area-based interventions, and builds local partnerships and networks with local authorities, social partners' organizations, civil society and companies across sectors.

A company representative explained the recommendations of a comprehensive assessment carried out by his company on effective remediation. His presentation stressed the importance of linking remediation strategies with robust child labour monitoring systems and the value of a supply chain approach to scale up results. Other recommendations related to the importance of targeted remediation (income generating activities for families, birth certificates etc.) that goes beyond the responsibility to respect and addresses some of the root causes of child labour through a variety of partnerships.

Sustainability of results as well as effective grievance mechanisms in the rural sector were mentioned as key challenges.

A representative from an NGO presented key results and lessons learned on child labour remediation. Her presentation highlighted the child labour free zone approach as a good model of intervention and the need to connect child labour efforts with responses to broader social and economic needs affecting children and parents (quality education, skills training, economic empowerment of adults etc.). Her presentation also explained various phases of intervention, including mapping, monitoring and assistance, all of which are carried out across linked sectors and in close collaboration with local actors (governments, local companies, cooperatives, trade unions, NGOs).

2. Future ILO work on global supply chains

Ms Deborah Greenfield, Deputy Director General for Policy, ILO, provided an insider's perspective on the 2016 International Labour Conference (ILC) discussion on supply chains. She emphasized the positive contribution of global supply chains in the economic and social development of many countries. However economic gains do not automatically create decent work in global supply chains and Ms. Greenfield stressed that challenges for the realization of decent work concerned not only multinationals enterprises but also small and medium-sized enterprises with firms involved in domestic as well as global supply chains. She went further to explain that the 2016 ILC raised key questions about how to improve governance of supply chains and their contribution to decent work. She noted tripartite constituents' consensus on the fact that the effective governance of global supply chains requires the involvement of the State as well as the private sector and the need for more coordination and partnerships between them. The ILC discussion requested the ILO to develop a Programme of Action, which will be presented to the GB in November 2016. It contains the following 5 areas of action:

- Knowledge generation and dissemination;
- Capacity building;
- Effective advocacy for decent work, including on the elimination of child labour and occupational health and safety;
- Policy advice and technical assistance;
- Partnerships and policy coherence

The ILC discussion also covered the urgent situation of child labour and forced labour in supply chains, the importance of enhancing capacity to monitor the situation of these rights and developing partnerships and dialogue to address persistent challenges. On this latter point, Ms. Greenfield concluded that the CLP create a space for dialogue for businesses and an avenue for their coherent contribution to Alliance 8.7 and the goals of IPEC +.

3. Cross-sectoral collaboration to tackle child labour in Myanmar

An ILO expert explained that in 2016, CLP member companies and other employers in Myanmar began to exchange experience and explore a joint strategy to tackle child labour

in industrial zones in Yangon, Myanmar. He gave an update on a proposed new CLP cross-sectoral initiative focussing on child labour in teashops and other forms of child labour in selected communities through an area based approach. A meeting of CLP members and other companies took place in July 2016 in Yangon to identify ways of implementing direct action in the industrial area of Yangon through a CLP project. The proposed strategy takes a rights-based approach and will complement MyPEC, an on-going ILO project against child labour. An 18-month initial stage is foreseen, the objectives of carrying out advocacy, capacity building, research and providing small business development services and training to improve the enterprises' recruitment systems and to address monitoring and remediation of child labour.

4. Dialogue on eliminating child labour in agriculture

This session was chaired by Mr. Philip Jennings. During the session, it was noted that 59% of child labour is found in agriculture, making agriculture a critical sector to address in order to meet the SDG target of elimination of child labour by 2025. Most is unpaid family work, and finding ways to boost productivity and incomes on small holder farms to meet adult labour shortages is a key challenge. The panel provided information on new tools, and reviewed experience in tackling child labour in agriculture. A Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) expert made a presentation on FAO/ ILO e-learning tool to end child labour in agriculture. He underlined the need to work with Ministries of Agriculture and not only with Ministries of Labour and mentioned that some companies have already approached FAO to use the course and train their staff at the global and country level.

A company representative operating in the sugar sector showed how they are committed to taking action at the global and local level and to having a dialogue on eliminating child labour in agriculture. In spite of the prohibition to use of child labour in the company, problems persisted in their supply chain. To better tackle this challenge, the company collaborated with an ILO-IPEC project in the sugar cane sector of El Salvador. This project contributed to the decline by some 90% of child labour since the mid-2000s. The presentation highlighted the positive results obtained when all the partners come at the same table, including the Government. Currently, the company is using the IOE/ ILO Guidance tool and the FAO/ILO E-learning tool and is implementing an initiative to enable the economic empowerment of 5 million women entrepreneurs by 2020.

An ILO expert presented a positive experience from the sugar cane sector in El Salvador and Mexico, featuring the use of area-based approaches, cash transfers, nutrition programmes, new education opportunities and greater social protection. In Mexico, a zero tolerance policy in the sugar cane sector is applied through mechanisation of the fields and cash transfers. The labour inspectorate was trained on how to inspect child labour in farms and raise awareness at the workplace. The ILO expert also highlighted the role of the private sector and advocacy efforts on the elimination of child labour in the country.

5. Fair Recruitment initiative

This session was moderated by Ms Beate Andrees, Chief of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch, ILO. Ms Manuela Tomei, Director of the Conditions of Work and Employment Programme, ILO, presented the new Guidelines on Fair Recruitment, which were adopted by a tripartite meeting of experts in October 2016. She explained that these

Guidelines are the most comprehensive and consolidated framework for both cross-border and national recruitment and a key component for the protection of migrant workers and the fair and effective governance of labour migration. The principles embedded in these guidelines include the recruitment of workers with respect for human and labour rights, including all the fundamental principles and rights at work as well as a free of charge recruitment process for workers. To support the implementation of these guidelines by companies, the ILO is currently implementing the Fair Recruitment Initiative and will provide information and further technical advice to the general public and interested companies. An ILO Adviser introduced a business panel from Jordan involved in the implementation of the Fair Recruitment Initiative in this country. Mr Frederik Muia, Senior Adviser, IOE highlighted IOE's engagement on migration and fair recruitment issues with a variety of key actors, including the World Bank, IOM and the ILO. He stressed the importance for companies to recruit and retain a qualified workforce and the positive aspects of migration in this regard. He noted a recent trend at the national and international level to avoid the risks of fraud and abusive recruitment and announced the publication by IOE of a toolkit on recruitment.

6. Strategic direction of the CLP

ILO/Fundamentals provided an overview of the Business Engagement Strategy of Alliance 8.7, and explained how the CLP fits in. An overview of membership developments and a summary of consultations with CLP members was provided, including the possible expansion of the CLP to cover all FPRW; moving to one face to face meeting per year complemented by webinars; holding CLP meetings outside Europe and in different languages; and possibility of moving ahead with direct action in Myanmar. CLP members shared their views on new CLP developments, future collaboration on the ground and on the Myanmar initiative. Main conclusions and recommendations of this session were:

- The increase number of companies attending the meeting demonstrated growing interest for the CLP. ***The Secretariat was urged to continue its engagement with more companies, which it will do, in coordination with the ILO's Bureau for Employers' Activities.***
- Annual CLP meetings in Geneva offered a good opportunity to connect and discuss CLP activities and key issues. ***It was agreed to keep this format but recommended to have more time for interaction between companies, and to involve member companies closely in the development of the meeting agendas. The Secretariat was also requested to share information on the meeting well in advance for companies to prepare their participation.***
- Comments were made on the opportunity for the CLP to play a role during the 2017 Global Child Labour and Forced Labour Conference that will take place in Argentina. ***It was suggested to explore the possibility to exceptionally organize the 2017 annual CLP meeting in Buenos Aires. It was also recommended to create a working group to prepare the CLP contribution to the Global Child Labour and Forced Labour Conference.***
- The wealth of country level interventions and the need to accelerate results on the ground were highlighted as issues relevant for the work of the CLP. The CLP initiative in Myanmar was welcomed as an opportunity to support country level efforts across sectors. ***It was recommended to strengthen the linkages between the CLP and companies' efforts at the country level. This could take the form***

of regional or country meetings and pilot projects, such as the one in Myanmar.

- The first CLP webinar on supply chains was welcomed as a good practice for in depth discussions and sharing of information on specific subjects. ***It was agreed to organize new webinars or similar exercises for in-depth learning and discussions on specific issues.***
- *Regular communication on new developments, sharing of information and practical research on topics of common interest were mentioned as valuable services of the CLP. An annual newsletter, a portal with tools and power point presentations as well as research products were suggested as new services to be provided by the CLP.*

7. Company updates and trend analysis

This session was moderated by an ILO Adviser. All companies attending the meeting provided an update of ongoing and new efforts and corporate trends on the elimination of child labour in their own supply chains.

Closing remarks

The ILO thanked all participants for their trust and active participation. It highlighted the importance of the 2017 Global Conference on child labour and forced labour and encouraged participants to seize the opportunities offered by this Conference to demonstrate businesses' practical action on the elimination and child labour and related contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals.

IOE highlighted the rich discussion and participation from all members and the importance to take forward the recommendations made during the discussion on the strategic direction of the CLP. ITUC thanked all participants for a frank and useful exchange and wished that the CLP would follow up on some of the key issues discussed during the meeting, including on freedom of association rights and the role of trade unions.

ANNEX



MEETING OF THE CHILD LABOUR PLATFORM

AGENDA

17-18 October 2016

Salle Le Grenier, Château des Penthes

Château de Penthes, Chemin de l'Impératrice 18

1292 Geneva, Switzerland

| Day 1 | |
|-------------|---|
| 13:15-13:45 | Welcome by CLP Co-Chairs (Linda Kromjong, IOE, and Philip Jennings, UNI Global Union), UN Global Compact (Patricia Perren) and ILO (Beate Andrees) and Introductions |
| 13:45-15:00 | <p>When child labour is found: expert insight on remediation of child labour</p> <p>Moderator: Linda Kromjong</p> <p>Jose Maria Ramirez, ILO Yann Wyss, Nestle Leonie Blokhuis, Stop Child Labour</p> <p><i>Child labour most often occurs in the informal economy, deep in supply chains, in communities deprived of quality educational systems and social protection. Parents often feel obliged to send their children to work to boost household income. In such a context, ensuring that children and their families have viable alternatives to child labour is not necessarily simple. This panel will discuss how to meet such challenges to securing remediation for child labourers.</i></p> |

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| 15:00-15:30 | <p>Future ILO work on global supply chains Deborah Greenfield, Deputy Director General, ILO</p> <p><i>The 2016 discussion at the International Labour Conference on Global Supply Chains (GSC) was an historic first: the tripartite constituents of the ILO engaged in in-depth discussion, debate and analysis of global supply chains and their profound and complex effects on the achievement of decent work for all.</i></p> <p><i>DDG Greenfield led the Office's support to the GSC discussion and will provide an insider's perspective on the key topics of debate, the implications for the ILO's work on GSCs, including the Child Labour Platform.</i></p> |
| 15:30-16:00 | Coffee break |
| 16:00-16:30 | <p>Cross-sectoral collaboration against child labour in Myanmar Ben Smith, ILO</p> <p><i>In 2016 CLP member companies and other employers in Myanmar began to exchange experience and explore a joint strategy to tackle child labour in industrial zones in Yangon, Myanmar. Such a cross-sectoral initiative will focus on child labour in teashops and other forms of child labour in selected communities. An update on this promising new CLP initiative will be provided.</i></p> |
| 16:30-17:45 | <p>Dialogue on eliminating child labour in agriculture Moderator: Philip Jennings</p> <p>Bernd Seiffert, FAO Cindy Sawyer, The Coca-Cola Company Ben Smith, ILO</p> <p><i>59% of child labour is found in agriculture, making agriculture a critical sector to address in order to meet the SDG target of elimination of child labour by 2025. Most is unpaid family work, and finding ways to boost productivity and incomes on small holder farms to meet adult labour shortages is a key challenge. This panel will provide information on new tools, and review experience in tackling child labour in agriculture.</i></p> |
| 18:15-19:30 | Cocktail reception |

| Day 2 | |
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| 9:00-10:30 | <p>Panel discussion on Fair Recruitment Initiative and labour supply chains Moderator: Beate Andrees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manuela Tomei, ILO • Farhan Ifram, MAS Holdings • Shakir Ismail, Maliban Textiles • Frederick Muia, IOE <p><i>A major source of forced labour risk for business lies in what can be described as the labour supply chain. The Fair Recruitment Initiative (ILO-FAIR), launched in 2014, aims to: help prevent human trafficking and child labour; protect the rights of</i></p> |

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| | <p><i>workers, including migrant workers, from abusive and fraudulent practices during the recruitment and placement process; reduce the cost of labour migration; and enhance development gains. This multi-stakeholder initiative puts social dialogue at the centre, and is implemented in close collaboration with governments, representative employers' and workers' organizations, the private sector and other key partners. This panel will review how the Fair Recruitment Initiative assists companies to strengthen systems of due diligence and remediation to prevent and respond to unfair recruitment practices in their operations and supply chains, including the occurrence of child labour.</i></p> |
| 10:30-11:00 | Coffee Break |
| 11:00-12:15 | <p>Company updates and trends analysis</p> <p>Moderator: Simon Steyne</p> <p>Participants provide updates on developments and trends, within their organization and more broadly. Participants are encouraged to provide recommendations in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do company policies mitigate risks of child labour in the supply chain? • How do you engage effectively with suppliers? • What approaches to supply chain and risk mapping work best? |
| 12:15-13:45 | Lunch |
| 13:45-14:30 | <p>The strategic direction of the CLP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership developments and consultations • CLP action at the global and local levels |
| 14:30-15:00 | Closing remarks (ILO, IOE, ITUC, UN Global Compact) |