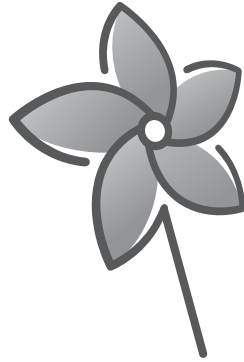




REGIONAL INITIATIVE

Latin America and
the Caribbean free
OF CHILD LABOUR



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Introduction

The **Regional Initiative: Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour** is a **commitment** by the countries to accelerate the process towards the elimination of child labour. At the same time, it represents an innovative cooperation instrument to consolidate and sustain progress achieved, ensuring the full exercise of children and adolescents' rights in the region.

In a scenario where the economic growth and sustained poverty reduction of recent years contrasts with the persistence of child labour, the Regional Initiative has been created under the leadership of a group of countries to provide a **joint, innovative and urgent response** to the different ways in which child labour is still present in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Regional Initiative aims to declare Latin America and the Caribbean as the first developing region in the world free of child labour. To accomplish this goal, the participation of all the countries in the region is needed.



1. Background

In the past 20 years, Latin American and Caribbean countries have generated a series of relevant transformations to achieve a child-labour free Latin America and the Caribbean with support from International Cooperation agencies. However, the latest estimates of the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2013)¹ show that there is a **worrying stagnation** in reducing child labour and, with the current rate, neither the world nor, the region of Latin America and the Caribbean will achieve the goals of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016 and all forms of child labour by 2020.²

The persistence of child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean, a region with a long cycle of economic growth that has had a positive impact on social indicators, constitutes a **warning sign** that calls for an urgent response. There can be no further delay in implementing a focused, coordinated and integrated approach, both within and among countries and subregional in the continent, seeking the sustainability of the achievements of the last 20 years and avoiding any regressive effects that could exacerbate the problem.

WHAT IS CHILD LABOUR?

- It is the work performed by children and adolescents engaged in economic activities who are under the minimum age to work in accordance with national law and international standards.
- The work performed by adolescents engaged in economic activities who, being of or over the minimum age to be permitted to work, do so in hazardous activities that endanger their health, safety and/or moral development.
- Exploitative child and adolescent work, also called “the worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work” (such as slavery, trafficking of drugs, commercial sexual exploitation, use in armed conflict).

¹ Marking progress against child labour, Global estimates and trends 2000-2012, International Labour Office (ILO), International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) - Geneva ILO, 2013.

² Roadmap for achieving the elimination of the worst forms of child labour by 2016 (The Hague Global Child Labour Conference 2010) and Decent Work in the Americas: a hemispheric agenda, 2006 - 2015 [Sixteenth American Regional Meeting, Brasilia, 2006].



WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO ELIMINATE CHILD LABOUR?

Because:

- ➔ Child labour deepens social inequality, depriving children and adolescents of the education and training they need for their own development and for the progress of their family and community.
- ➔ Child labour exacerbates the economic and social vulnerabilities of low-income families.
- ➔ The discrimination faced by girls, makes them particularly vulnerable to exploitation, abuse and deprivation of their rights.
- ➔ Eliminating child labour means realizing the fundamental rights of children and adolescents in Latin America and the Caribbean, which are embodied in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- ➔ Eliminating child labour is a way to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.
- ➔ Building global citizenship begins from early childhood (0 - 8 years) in a context of equity and equality of opportunities and of respect for their rights.

The path of cooperation and partnership travelled by the countries of the region leading to the present **Regional Initiative: Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour**, is the result of a process of progressive appropriation by the countries³ that has included the mass adoption of the ILO Conventions 138 (on the minimum age for admission to employment) and 182 (on the worst forms of child labour), and the ratification of the Roadmap for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016, the creation of national committees, the design and implementation of specific national plans and the inclusion of diverse social actors (employers, unions, indigenous organizations), among other activities⁴.

In addition, it highlights the experiences of joint efforts undertaken by countries within the subregional integration systems of Mercosur, SICA and CARICOM, as well as the experience of South-South cooperation.

The contribution of the ILO, through its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), established in 1992, has been decisive and has counted on the technical and financial assistance of the Regional Project for Policy Development and the Cooperation Agencies of Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, USA, as well as the Inter-American Development Bank, which has allowed presence and continuous action during 19 years.

³ Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005). Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (2012).

⁴ Annex 1 contains a chronological summary of the historical background of the Regional Initiative for A Child-Labour free Latin America and the Caribbean.



2. What is the Regional Initiative: Latin America and the Caribbean free of Child Labour?

2.1 An alliance among countries

The **Regional Initiative** is an **alliance** among the countries of the region arising from the need to accelerate progress in Latin America and the Caribbean toward meeting the goals of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016 and the complete elimination of child labour by 2020, in response to the urgent call of the Global Roadmap and the goals of the Hemispheric Agenda on Decent Work, which were ratified at the Third World Conference through the Brasilia Declaration against Child Labour, endorsed by representatives from 154 countries in Brasilia in 2013.

2.2 A historical opportunity

The present moment offers a **historic opportunity** to eliminate child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean because:

- ❖ Progress has been made towards targeting the population of children and adolescents engaged in different sectors of economic activity.
- ❖ The goal of prevention and elimination of child labour has been positioned within the political agendas of the countries in the region, going from being an invisible reality to becoming an issue of public concern.
- ❖ Most of the countries in the region have specific public policies on prevention and elimination of child labour with set goals and budgets.
- ❖ The issue has been institutionalized through the creation of national commissions or committees in most countries.



- ❖ The institutional capacity of countries to respond to the realities of prevention and elimination of child labour has been strengthened.
- ❖ Countries have more precise national information and statistic of the magnitude and characteristics of child labour.
- ❖ More than 500 pilot projects have been implemented to identify and validate methodologies.
- ❖ A wide and varied experience of regional cooperation, South- South cooperation and exchange of good practices among countries is now available.
- ❖ Economic growth in the region allows countries to allocate their own financial and technical resources.
- ❖ In several countries of the region the productive infrastructure is being reoriented to respond to the new economic reality (bilateral trade treaties, re-industrialisation processes oriented towards exports and/or reducing dependence on imports). In the context of this new infrastructure, decent work and child labour issues are imperative for successful involvement in global trade.

Capitalizing on these conditions is essential for confronting, in a sustainable manner, the reality of child labour in the region and for overcoming the stagnation in the reduction of child labour, the increase in hazardous work and any possible regressive effects that might occur if this historic opportunity is not seized.

The **Regional Initiative** constitutes a **commitment** by the countries to put an end to child labour, making Latin America and the Caribbean the first child-labour free developing region in the world. This is a clear demonstration of the maturity, consensus and decision-making achieved by the countries in the region on this issue and a commitment towards a joint effort and mutual support as key factors to make child-labour elimination an achievable goal, thus contributing to get a world without child labour.



3. The differential value of the Regional Initiative

3.1 A crucial struggle for development with social justice

Child labour is a serious threat not only to the present and future of each individual child and adolescents, but also to the collective future of the region.

Today in Latin America and the Caribbean, 167 million people still live in poverty and 66 million live in extreme poverty or destitution, where efforts have not been sufficient to change its status as the world's most unequal region. High rates of informal work and social exclusion are determining factors in child labour, strengthening the cause and effect relationship which is why the effort to eliminate it takes on a strategic role in the development of the region.

At present, there is evidence that the elimination of child labour is a prerequisite for combating poverty, fighting inequality, achieving education for all and gaining full and productive employment and decent work for youths and adults.

Its elimination is rendered particularly important in the fulfilment of bilateral trade agreements in force in the region, as it constitutes one of the principles and rights recognized as fundamental by all parties.



3.2 Profile of the child labour situation in Latin America and the Caribbean

The latest global estimates on child labour point out that Latin America and the Caribbean concentrate 12.5 million children and adolescents in child labour, which represents 8.6% of the global share. In this context, a major challenge for the region is to accelerate the pace of reduction until child labour it is fully eliminated. This challenge is critical in the face of the stagnation in the rate of child labour reduction shown by the countries. Between 2008 and 2011, the incidence of child labour remained almost unchanged, with 8.2 % (-0.4 %) of children in child labour.



Source: based on the ILO report "Child Labour in Latin America-2011."

There has also been a decrease in the rate of child labour reduction regarding hazardous work progress where has been very slow over the past four years (-0.3 %). It should be noted that this activity severely affects childrens' and adolescents' opportunities because, on average, those engaged in hazardous child labour attend school less regularly and work more hours.

A slowdown in progress is also observed by age group, with a decrease of 1.2% for 15 to 17 year olds as opposed to the 5 to 14 year old age group where rates remain almost the same.

These results show the need to enhance social and economic inclusion policies, specially the quality of education, poverty reduction and social protection.

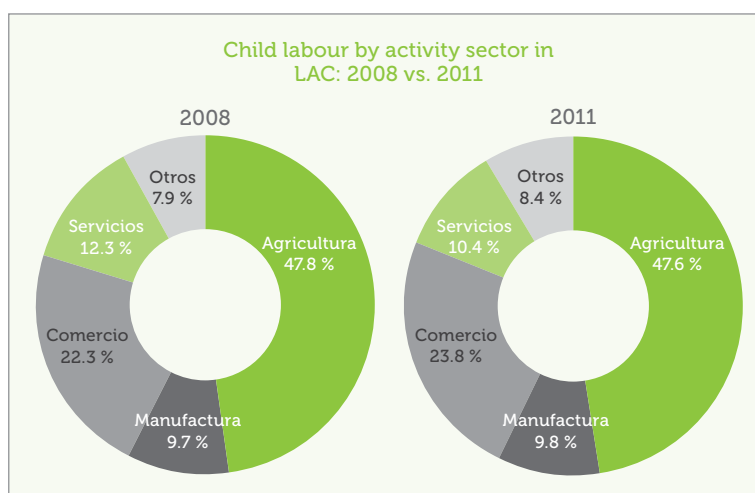


Subregions	2008			2011		
	5 to 14 years old	15 to 17 years old	Total	5 to 14 years old	15 to 17 years old	Total
Southern Region	4.2	13.0	6.2	3.6	11.8	5.5
Andean Countries	10.0	20.0	12.2	10.3	18.3	12.1
Meso America	6.2	19.2	9.1	5.9	18.6	8.8
Latin America	6.2	16.9	8.6	6.0	15.7	8.2

Source: based on the ILO report "Child Labour in Latin America 2008-2011."

It should be noted that absolute numbers reflect that the progress towards the elimination of child labour has lowered down in all the region but particularly in the Andean region and in Central America.

As to the productive environment at the country level, the agriculture sector has the largest number of working children; especially of boys aged 5 to 14, as unpaid family farming workers. This sector gathers the largest proportion of child labour, but there are big differences among the numbers registered on a sub-regional scale: 61.5% of the all working children and



Source: based on the ILO report "Child Labour in Latin America 2008-2011".



adolescents in this sector are in the Andean countries, while in South region accounts for 38.4%.

Moreover, commerce –one of the largest generators of employment in recent years– accounts for a significant share of child labour in the region. This share has increased slightly (1.5%) between 2004 and 2008, accounting for 23.8 % of all working children.

Lastly, the region also faces the challenge of eliminating the worst forms of child labour, not known as hazardous work, such as commercial sexual exploitation, child trafficking and slavery, among others. These are crimes in most of the countries and require greater efforts to identify and quantify them because it will be difficult to account them through the countries statistical system. This requires different methodologies to identify the victims and a better coordinated response with strong links between the criminal justice systems and the child protection systems and networks.

3.3 The added value of being part of the Regional Initiative⁵

The Initiative emerged as **catalyst for all efforts** already underway in the region to provide short-term responses to address the plight of child labour and declare Latin America and the Caribbean a child-labour free region by 2020.

At the same time, it constitutes a regional tool to enhance the countries' capabilities and create a multiplier effect in various sectors. The countries conceive the **Regional Initiative** as the most effective and timely tool as it allows to:

- ❖ Think globally and act locally to make a global impact.
- ❖ Promote activities with the highest level of support and political commitment at country level.
- ❖ Act together, respecting differences and building trust and solidarity.

⁵ En el Anexo 2 se incluye un cuadro con los resultados sobre la reflexión del valor añadido de la Iniciativa Regional de parte de los países del grupo impulsor.



- ❖ Increase the efficient use of resources to achieve greater impact.
- ❖ Jointly address common problems through various national policies, achieving regional results.
- ❖ Increase international cooperation flows.
- ❖ Generate more detailed information, strengthens national policies and programmes using regionally standardised tools and policy frameworks.
- ❖ Comply with binding regulations.
- ❖ Exchange experiences.
- ❖ Strengthen social and regional outreach, awareness-raising and stakeholder mobilisation networks, focusing on different audiences and issues.
- ❖ Build capacity within the State to provide immediate, relevant responses to the needs of children and adolescents through concrete action programmes.
- ❖ Promote, strength and coordinate public-private initiatives, social-responsibility, fair-trade and child-labour-free value-chain networks with the private sector, trade unions and regional bodies.

3.4 A strengthened and enhanced response

Within the framework of the Regional Initiative and in order to provide all the elements necessary for the catalytic acceleration process to be effective, the countries have identified areas of work that require **improvement** to be addressed urgently to pick up the pace in the fight against child labour. These areas of work are the following:



Area of work	Urgent actions
Political	▶ Links and joint work among: 1) Latin American and the Caribbean countries; 2) the different sectors of government, to include child labour as part of public policies in the various sectors (agriculture, labour, health, education, justice, social assistance, among others); 3) different areas of governance within countries, to ensure policy implementation (national, regional and local); 4) the State and the business sector; and 5) the public sector, the private sector and civil society. ▶ Design and implementation of a quality education system, with socio-cultural relevance and broad coverage that is supportive of the fight against child labour. ▶ Consolidation of systems such as: 1) Child Labour Registration system, 2) follow-up, monitoring and inspection; and 3) compliance monitoring regarding standards.
Economic, social and cultural	▶ Changing cultural patterns that radically condemn child labour and particularly hazardous child labour. ▶ Deepening of equity and social inclusion as factors for child labour prevention and elimination ▶ Protected employment opportunities within the context of decent work for adolescents above the minimum age for admission to employment. ▶ Promoting decent job opportunities for youth and adults.
International Cooperation	▶ Prioritization of child labour prevention and elimination in the agendas of international development cooperation agencies. ▶ Facilitate, expand and strengthen international cooperation in its various forms.



4. Objectives of the Regional Initiative

4.1 General objective

- ❖ Elimination of child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2020.

4.2 Specific objectives⁶

- ❖ Accelerate and intensify child labour prevention and elimination by strengthening institutional coordination within and among sectors and the different levels of government.
- ❖ Increase awareness in the countries about negative consequences of child labour, especially in its worst forms.

4.3 Expected Results

- ❖ The countries have established permanent and sustainable linkage mechanisms with public, private, and social actors for child labour prevention and elimination.
- ❖ Countries have incorporated in their policies and programs to combat poverty, inequality and exclusion the groups vulnerable to child labour, with a focus on indigenous and tribal peoples and communities
- ❖ The countries have mainstreamed the issue of child labour in policies and actions geared at formalizing informal employment.
- ❖ The countries have strengthened intersectoral action, inter-government agency coordination and the ability to act locally to prevent and eliminate child labour, particularly its worst forms.

⁶ Annex 3 includes a matrix of objectives and main activities.



- ❖ The countries have strengthened labour inspection and other mechanisms to ensure compliance with child labour standards.
- ❖ The countries have developed child labour identification, registration, tracking and monitoring systems, particularly regarding the worst forms of child labour.
- ❖ The countries have mainstreamed child labour prevention, especially regarding the worst forms, in their education policy.
- ❖ The countries have developed policies for protected employment and qualification of youths above the minimum age for admission to employment.
- ❖ The perception of the negative consequences of child labour, especially its worst forms, has increased significantly in the countries.

4.4 Lines of action

The Regional Initiative focuses its work along priority lines of action, allowing acceleration in progress towards child labour elimination through urgent response:

➔ Developing national child labour policies

- ❖ Develop effective mechanisms for the linkage of child labour prevention and elimination policies and social safety networks.
- ❖ Promote increased coverage and quality of education, with special emphasis on rural areas with high incidence of child labour.
- ❖ Develop vocational training programmes for youth above the minimum working age.
- ❖ Include the prohibition of child labour in public-sector contracts with suppliers of goods and services.
- ❖ Promote conventions, pacts and commitments against child labour with public, private, trade-union and social partners.
- ❖ Promote the participation of employers' and workers' organizations in the effort to formalise employment and combat child labour.



→ Strengthening capacity for taking direct action

- ❖ Promote local, inter-sectoral and tripartite agreements and with other key civil society actors to develop and implement local plans for child labour prevention and elimination.
- ❖ Implement integrated databases fed by the various (education, agriculture, health, welfare, labour, justice, among others) institutions involved in the fight against child labour to facilitate joint action and follow-up.
- ❖ Develop the capacity to identify children and families at risk and/or in child labour in schools, health centres and other institutions and implement a referral system linking together all the institutions involved in addressing the problem.
- ❖ Design and implement incentive mechanisms to reduce dropout rates and encourage reintegration into school for children and adolescents in, or at risk of, child labour.
- ❖ Conduct regular “supply of and demand for employment studies” to accompany the transition from school to decent work.
- ❖ Establish linkages to social protection programmes and conditional cash transfer mechanisms.

→ Knowledge generation

- ❖ Promote effective exchange of good practices, lessons learned and meaningful experiences in combating child labour among the countries in the region.
- ❖ Conduct local and sectoral diagnostics to assess the magnitude and characteristics of child labour as an input to formulate and guide action.
- ❖ Conduct, share and disseminate studies on the negative impacts of child labour on children’s health, development and education.
- ❖ Exchange information on the development of active policies for identification of child labour, particularly on migration-related child labour.
- ❖ Share experiences in addressing child labour by sectors of activity, age groups and types of work.



→ Policy advocacy

- ❖ Promote public-private partnerships to ensure that supply chains are free from child labour.
- ❖ Expand the experiences of business networks against child labour.
- ❖ Create and/or strengthen multipartite national committees for prevention and elimination of child labour and its worst forms involving government agencies, employers, workers and civil society.
- ❖ Promote closer cooperation and coordination among cooperation agencies in the region to address child labour prevention and elimination.
- ❖ Strengthen the trade-union federation's continental initiative against child labour.

→ Legislation and enforcement

- ❖ Establish trans-border arrangements between national and local governments, including the inspections of the labour and justice sectors to coordinate actions against child labour.
- ❖ Establish a regional agreement on a minimum list of hazardous child labour and the criteria to be considered for prioritizing enforcement actions.
- ❖ Harmonization of standards, procedures and protocols for child labour inspection.
- ❖ Exchange experiences and implement/strengthen IT-based tools for labour inspection.
- ❖ Implement/strengthen training for labour inspectors on vulnerable groups and sectors and child-labour related activities.

→ Awareness-raising

- ❖ Implement joint thematic and targeted awareness-raising strategies for prevention and elimination of child labour.
- ❖ Implement strategies to sensitize families to the prevention and elimination of child labour.
- ❖ Promote support for and the expression of opinion makers for a child-labour free Latin America and Caribbean.
- ❖ Promote support for networks of journalists and media a child-labour free Latin America and the Caribbean.



5. Who makes up the Regional Initiative?

5.1 Member countries

The countries have conducted many efforts toward child labour elimination and, concerned about the stagnation in the reduction, they have exchanged information and identified the need to seek renewed approaches ensuring urgent responses to the regional situation. At the Third Global Conference on Child Labour (2013) a group of countries pledged to drive the **Regional Initiative**⁷, with the purpose of inviting all the countries of the region to join.

A Latin America and Caribbean free of child labour requires the participation of multiple stakeholders at regional and country level.

5.2 Stakeholders

A Latin America and Caribbean free of child labour requires the participation of multiple stakeholders at regional and country level. Under the national authority on the subject, the countries decide what institutions should be involved, what the mechanisms for participation, coordination and representation will be, as well as what roles are to be played by the various stakeholders.

⁷ Countries originally involved in the Regional Initiative were: Argentina, Brasil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, México, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay. Subsequently Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela, joined summing up 19 countries (may 2014). News members are expected.



The major stakeholders called upon to make an important contribution and be part of the Regional Initiative through their efforts are:

Sectors	Major stakeholders
Public Sector	▶ Based on their competencies in each country, the Ministries involved can be the Ministries of Labour, Education, Health, Social Development, Economy, Planning, Agriculture, Commerce, Industry, Construction, Tourism, Justice, Public Safety, Governance, Interior and Foreign Affairs. ▶ Branches of the legislative and judicial bodies. ▶ National statistics offices. ▶ Local governments. ▶ Institutes for child protection.
Social actors	▶ National Commissions for the prevention and elimination of child labour, commissions on commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and forums on children and child labour. ▶ Employers' organizations. ▶ Workers' organizations. ▶ Non-governmental, national or international associations, foundations and/or, organizations specialising in children's rights, gender issues, human rights, education, development, among others. ▶ Indigenous organizations, indigenous peoples organisations, ethnic minority organisations, cooperatives and community organisations. ▶ Social leaders and opinion makers. ▶ The media ▶ Universities.
International Organizations	▶ United Nations system agencies. ▶ Cooperation agencies. ▶ Embassies. ▶ Inter-American Children's Institute. ▶ Development Banks (WB, BCIE/CABEI, KfW, IDB, CAF) among others. ▶ Integration Organization: Mercosur, UNASUR, ALBA, OEA, CAN, SICA, among others



6. Financing

The Regional Initiative is an innovative tool which incorporates a variable-geometry approach to programme at programme and financial levels.

At the programme level, a flexible set of plans and projects are developed, adapted to national, subregional, regional and sectoral needs, identified as areas requiring urgent action.

At the financial level, the Regional Initiative pools resources from various sources:

- ❖ The participating countries' own resources.
- ❖ International development cooperation agencies.
- ❖ Private sector (businesses, corporate foundations etc.).
- ❖ Non-monetary contributions to the Regional Initiative through in-kind donations.

The set of resources will constitute a Fund for the Elimination of Child Labour, which will fund the implementation of the acceleration plans and spin-off projects.



7. Management of the Regional Initiative

Management of the Initiative will be entrusted to the following entities:

Entity	Tasks and roles
Meeting of High-Level Authorities – Highest level governing body	▶ Approves a programme of priorities and activities and the general budget required for them. ▶ Provides the highest level of political governance. ▶ Receives and approves, on an annual basis, the progress reports of the Initiative according to the proposed objectives.
Steering Committee. Made up by five countries and representing the participants of the Regional Initiative	▶ Strategic Management of the Initiative and its Fund. ▶ Responsible for the approval of the rules of operations of the Regional Initiative.
Technical Secretariat. Commissioned by the promoting group, the ILO assumes the Technical Secretariat.	▶ Provides technical assistance and support to achieve the objectives, measure the results, identify lessons learned, manage the acquired knowledge, among others. ▶ Provides services to the Steering Committee and coordinates the management of the fund, preparing draft regulations for the fund's operation. ▶ As delegated by the Steering Committee, ensures compliance, follow-up and management of policies and strategies. ▶ Administers the fund, distributes resources and oversees the work of the technical units. It also prepares the programming cycle document.
Ad-hoc groups to address specific topics. Panels of external thematic expert advisors.	▶ Consulting on specific, border, or sectoral issues of common interest.



8. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring progress towards meeting the regional objectives will be made based on the criteria, indicators and targets set by the countries. A periodic progress report will be prepared by the Technical Secretariat and approved by the Steering Committee.

In terms of implementation, the Regional Initiative will use action plans at various levels (local, national, sectoral, subregional and regional) through which the region will reach the specific objectives. The consistency of the existing plans will be reviewed and plans will be adjusted taking account of their own particular features.



Annexes

ANNEX 1: Key Milestones

Year	Event
1973	Adoption of Convention 138 on the minimum age for admission to employment.
1999	Adoption of Convention 182 on the worst forms of child labour.
1996	First Tripartite Iberoamerican Ministerial Meeting on the Elimination of Child Labour (Cartagena de Indias, Colombia) which laid the foundations for the national policies of the region's countries by pledging to create National Committees or Commissions, design and implement specific national plans and improve knowledge through information and statistics.
1997	The 1997 Amsterdam Conference on Combating the Most Intolerable Forms of Child Labour and the 1997 Oslo International Conference on Child Labour both drew attention to the urgent need for concerted global action to end child labour, and called for an expansion of information gathering, statistics and empirical research to help inform this action.
2002	The First Declaration of Presidents of MERCOSUR on Child Labour (Buenos Aires, Argentina) , which binds the States Parties to strengthen national plans through specific measures such as regulatory harmonization, coordination and cooperation among all stakeholders, participation of workers' and employers' organizations through updated information, permanent awareness, and policy linkage.
2005	The Declaration of Mar del Plata (Argentina) , signed by 34 presidents within the framework of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, OAS, including the commitment to protect children from economic exploitation and improving access and quality of education for everyone.



Year	Event
2006	The Decent Work Hemispheric Agenda 2006-2015 (Brasilia, Brazil) , adopted at the Sixteenth American Regional Meeting of the ILO by the tripartite delegations from the countries in the region. The Agenda includes two specific goals on child labour: eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2015 and child labour in its entirety by 2020.
2010	Global Action Plan for the Elimination of the worst forms of child labour by 2016 (Geneva, Switzerland) approved by the Governing Body of the ILO. The Global Action Plan specifically refers to the Roadmap for achieving the elimination of the worst forms of child labour by 2016 adopted at the Second World Conference on Child Labour (The Hague, Netherlands) in 2010 .
2010	Latin American Meeting of Indigenous Peoples and Governments, From Declaration to Action (Cartagena de Indias, Colombia) . The meeting provided an opportunity for indigenous organizations to submit their views on child labour and to strengthen the mechanisms for dialogue with governments.
2012	The Panama Declaration (Panama) . Within the framework of the Conference on Successful Experiences and Good Practices for Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour, organized by the Ministry of Labour and Labour Development of Panama, the Ministers of Labour of Central America, Belize, Panama and the Dominican Republic signed a Declaration in which they pledged to strengthen responsibilities at each of their countries to achieve the targets of the Hemispheric Agenda, facing the Third World Conference on Child Labour to be held in Brazil in 2013.
2012	Second Presidential Declaration on the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour in Mercosur (Mendoza, Argentina) , signed within the framework of the First Regional Conference on Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour of MERCOSUR. In it, the presidents of the countries reiterated their rejection of child labour and declared their decision to strengthen actions aimed at effective prevention and elimination.
2013	The Brasilia Declaration (Brazil) , adopted within the framework of the Third World Conference on Child Labour, which reiterated the commitment to the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, called to persist with the Roadmap (The Hague, 2010) and urged that urgent action be taken to accelerate the elimination of child labour.



ANNEX 2: Matrix of Objectives and Main Activities

General Objective: Total elimination of child labour in Latin America and the Caribbean	
Specific objective 1: Accelerate and intensify child labour prevention and elimination by strengthening institutional coordination within and among sectors and the different levels of government.	
Outcomes	Lines of Action/Activities
▶ The countries have established permanent and sustainable linkage mechanisms with public, private, and social actors for child labour prevention and elimination. ▶ Countries have incorporated in their policies and programs to combat poverty, inequality and exclusion the groups vulnerable to child labour, with a focus on indigenous and tribal peoples and communities. ▶ The countries have mainstreamed the issue of child labour in policies and actions geared at formalizing informal employment.	Developing national child labour policies ▶ Developing mechanisms for the effective linkage of child labour prevention and elimination policies and social safety networks. ▶ Promoting increased coverage and quality of education, with special emphasis on rural areas with high incidence of child labour. ▶ Developing vocational training programmes for youth above the minimum working age. ▶ Including the prohibition of child labour in public-sector contracts with suppliers of goods and services. ▶ Promoting conventions, pacts and commitments against child labour with public, private, trade-union and social partners. ▶ Promoting the participation of employers' and workers' organizations in the effort to formalise employment and combat child labour. Strengthening capacities for taking direct action. ▶ Promoting effective exchange of best practices, lessons learned and meaningful experiences in combating child labour among the countries in the region. ▶ Conduct, share and disseminate studies on the negative impacts of child labour on children's health, development and education. ▶ Exchanging information on the development of active policies for identification of child labour, particularly migration-related child labour. ▶ Sharing experiences in addressing child labour by sectors of activity, age groups and types of work.



Outcomes	Lines of Action/Activities
► The countries have strengthened intersectoral action, inter-government agency coordination and the ability to act locally to prevent and eliminate child labour, particularly its worst forms. ► The countries have strengthened labour inspection and other mechanisms to ensure compliance with child labour standards. ► The countries have developed child labour identification, registration, tracking and monitoring systems, particularly regarding the worst forms of child labour. ► The countries have mainstreamed child labour prevention, especially regarding the worst forms, in their education policy. ► The countries have developed their policies for protected employment and qualification of youths above the minimum age for admission to employment.	Knowledge generation ► Promoting effective exchange of best practices, lessons learned and meaningful experiences in combating child labour among the countries in the region. ► Conducting local and sectoral diagnostics to assess the magnitude and characteristics of child labour as an input to formulate and guide action. ► Conduct, share and disseminate studies on the negative impacts of child labour on children's health, development and education. ► Exchanging information on the development of active policies for identification of child labour, particularly migration-related child labour. ► Sharing experiences in addressing child labour by sectors of activity, age groups and types of work. Policy advocacy ► Promote public-private partnerships to ensure that supply chains are free from child labour. ► Expand the experiences of business networks against child labour. ► Create and/or strengthen multipartite national committees for prevention and elimination of child labour and its worst forms involving government agencies, employers, workers and civil society. ► Promote closer cooperation and coordination among cooperation agencies in the region to address child labour prevention and elimination. ► Strengthen the trade-union federation's continental initiative against child labour. Legislation and enforcement ► Establish trans-border arrangements between national and local governments, including the labour inspectorates and the justice sector to coordinate actions against child labour. ► Establish a regional agreement on a minimum list of hazardous child labour and the criteria to be considered for prioritizing enforcement actions.



Outcomes	Lines of Action/Activities
	▶ Harmonization of standards, procedures and protocols for child labour inspection. ▶ Exchange experiences and implement/strengthen IT-based tools for labour inspection. ▶ Implement/strengthen training for labour inspectors on vulnerable groups and sectors and child-labour related activities.
Specific Objective 2: Increase awareness in the countries about negative consequences of child labour, especially in its worst forms.	
Outcomes	Lines of Action/Activities
▶ The perception of the negative consequences of child labour, especially its worst forms, has increased significantly in the countries.	Awareness-raising ▶ Implement joint thematic and targeted awareness-raising strategies for prevention and elimination of child labour. ▶ Implement strategies to sensitize families to the prevention and elimination of child labour. ▶ Promote support for and the expression of opinion makers in favour of a child-labour free Latin America and Caribbean. ▶ Promote support for networks of journalists and media advocating to make Latin America and the Caribbean a child-labour free region.



ANNEX 3: Added Value of Belonging to the Regional Initiative

Categories	Title	
Globality To think globally and act locally; and to act locally with a global impact.	From the global to the local	Thinking globally and acting locally and acting locally to make a global impact.
	High-level political backing	Promoting activities with the highest level of support and political commitment at country level.
	Space for pluralities	Acting together, respecting differences and building trust and solidarity.
Efficacy More efficient use of resources, thus achieving greater impact.	Resource economisation	Increasing the efficient use of resources to achieve a greater impact.
	Jointly addressing common problems	Jointly addressing common problems through various national policies, achieving regional results.
	Increased international cooperation flows	Increasing international cooperation flows.
Efficacy Ensure that all actors in the region work in the same direction and under the same standards.	Regional harmonization	Refining information, strengthening national policies and programmes and perfecting its tools within a standard and policy framework with clear regional consensus.
	Complying with binding regulations	Complying with binding regulations.
	Exchange of experiences	Exchanging experiences.



Categories	Title	
Citizenship as an agent for development	Social Mobilization	Strengthening social and regional outreach, awareness-raising and stakeholder mobilisation networks, focusing on different audiences and issues.
	Responses adjusted to realities	Building capacity within the State to provide immediate, relevant responses to the needs of children and adolescents through concrete action programmes.
Building shared value The private enterprise as an ally in the elimination of child labour.	The Private Sector as an ally	Promoting, strengthening and coordinating public-private initiatives, social responsibility, fair trade and child-labour free value chain networks with the private sector, trade unions and regional bodies.

