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CLEAR COTTON

ELIMINATING CHILD LABOUR AND FORCED LABOUR IN THE COTTON,
TEXTILE AND GARMENT VALUE CHAINS:
AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

L'ÉLIMINATION DU TRAVAIL DES ENFANTS ET DU TRAVAIL FORCÉ
DANS LES CHÂÎNES DE VALEUR DU COTON, DU TEXTILE ET DE L'HABILLEMENT:
UNE APPROCHE INTÉGRÉE

BRUSSELS
20 NOVEMBER 2018

BRUXELLES
20 NOVEMBRE 2018

Workshop and launch of the project
on the elimination of child labour
and forced labour in the cotton,
textile and garment value chains

Atelier et lancement du projet
sur l'élimination du travail des enfants
et du travail forcé dans les chaînes de valeur
du coton, du textile et de l'habillement

CLEAR COTTON



Background

Cotton is one of the world's most widely grown crops. In 2017-2018, the total global production of cotton amounted to 26.93 million metric tons¹ and cotton is the most used textile fibre in the world as it provides the raw material for 40-50% of all textiles in its form as cotton lint.² Cotton production is grown in more than 75 countries and represents a significant source living income in developing countries. For many of these countries, the cotton value chain, especially if extended to textile and garments production, is central to economic growth but is often associated with poor working conditions. While problems associated with the value chain include various aspects related to the sustainability of cotton production, the high incidence of both child labour and forced labour remains a particular challenge associated with it. During the last decade, a number of relevant initiatives have developed. As such, governments, workers' and employers' organizations, private companies, producers and their organizations, and civil society organizations are reshaping their roles to strengthen the governance and the sustainability of the supply chain including through developing the appropriate mechanisms to eliminate child labour and forced labour.

Within this context, the *CLEAR COTTON* project will contribute to the elimination of child labour and forced labour in the cotton, textile and garment value chains through an integrated approach. It is co-funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The project seeks to promote enhanced national legislation and policies, to address the basic needs and rights of children engaged or at risk of child labour, and of victims of forced labour. It adopts an integrated area based approach, embedded in a value chain approach, to cooperate with local producers, industries and international buyers. The Project will be implemented over a period of four years starting in March 2018 and will mainly target three countries: Burkina Faso, Mali and Pakistan, together with a set of awareness raising activities in Peru.

The project includes an inception phase of six months that aims at refining and detailing the project strategy and interventions in the selected countries, in light of a mapping of existing information and interventions. Consultations with the representatives of the respective governments, employers' and workers' organizations, producers' organizations, CSOs, UN agencies, communities and other stakeholders aim at assessing and discussing national priorities, determining the major areas of interventions and the role of the relevant stakeholders through a participatory approach.

Purpose of the event

The main purpose of the event organised jointly by the ILO and the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) is to launch the project and present its objectives and expected results. Further to the recent completion of the inception phase, the project also aims at linking the proposed country interventions to global efforts for the promotion of the sustainability of the cotton, textile and garment supply chains.

The event will offer the opportunity of discussing and sharing information on relevant approaches and initiatives. The event should also serve to strongly identify opportunities to anchor the project in EU relevant policies and action plans and the pledges of Buenos Aires Conference and in Alliance 8.7, reinforcing its contribution to the achievement of Target 8.7.

The date of 20 November has been selected to coincide the event with the *Universal Children's Day*³ to remember that too many children still do not enjoy their basic rights and childhood because they are engaged in child labour in many sectors.

¹ US. Department of Agriculture, USDA, Foreign agricultural service, July 2018.

² International Labour Organization, (2016), Child labour in cotton: A briefing.

³ <http://www.un.org/en/events/childrenday/>

AGENDA

8:30-9:00	<i>Welcoming coffee and registration</i>
9:00-9:30	Opening remarks - <i>Ms Henriette Geiger</i>, Director B “People and Peace”, DEVCO, European Commission - <i>Ms Beate Andrees</i>, Chief, FUNDAMENTALS Branch, ILO - <i>Mr Rodrigo De Lapuerta</i>, Director, Liaison Office in Brussels, FAO
9:30-10:00	Intervention by Ms Lola Sanchez and Mr Arne Lietz Members of the European Parliament
10:00-10:30	The International framework - The EU International Development and Cooperation Framework <i>Ms Françoise Millecam</i>, Head of Sector, DEVCO B3 "Employment and Social Inclusion" Sector, European Commission - ILO relevant action in the field of child labour and forced labour <i>Mr Francesco D'Ovidio</i>, Head, Solutions and Innovations Unit, FUNDAMENTALS, ILO
10.30-11:00	The Clear Cotton project - The EU support to CLEAR COTTON <i>Ms Maria Rosa De Paolis</i>, Policy Officer, Employment and Social Inclusion, Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development, European Commission - Presentation of the project: Key issues concerning child labour and forced labour in the cotton, textile and garment supply chain and the project's response <i>Ms Badra Alawa</i>, Chief technical advisor, ILO - The project's focus on livelihoods, the role of the FAO <i>Mr Bernd Seiffert</i>, Decent rural employment officer and focal point on child labour in agriculture, FAO
11.00-11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:30-13:15	Towards responsible cotton, textile and garment: the role of companies and actors within the supply chain <u>Objective of the session:</u> Recognising that the primary role of implementing international labour standards and in enforcing the law remains with the governments, private companies can have an important complementary role in promoting Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (FPRW), in particular with regard to fighting child labour and forced labour along the supply chain. This implies engaging with workers and their representatives, producers and farmers to develop a more sustainable supply chain that is free of child labour and forced labour and guarantees decent work. This session will explore the key role of private companies and actors within the supply chain, including informal settings, in improving working conditions in general, and in monitoring the prevalence of child labour and forced labour and fighting it. This session will also allow to get the view of workers through their representatives, farmers, producers, producers groups, and companies in the higher tiers on the means that can best have an impact on eliminating child labour and forced labour from their perspective.

	Chair: Ms Beate Andrees, ILO Panellists: - Mr Alvaro Schweinfurth, Confederation of Employers and Industries of Spain (CEOE) - Mr Jeroen Beirnaert, International Trade Union Confederation - Mr Didier Bergeret, Consumer Goods Forum - Mr Raymond Dansoko, Confédération des sociétés coopératives des producteurs de coton, Mali - Mr Sibiri Sou, Société des Fibres Textiles, Burkina Faso - Mr Azhar Majeed Shaikh, Arzoo Textile Mills Ltd, Pakistan - Mr Aleix Gonzalez Busquets, C&A - Mr Carl Peltzer, Cargill Incorporated Discussion with the audience
13:15 - 14:15	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:15 - 15:45	Setting the stage for impact at the community level: the role of international and national actors in developing adequate strategies against child and forced labour and in empowering cotton communities. <u>Objective of the session:</u> This session will examine how international actors, governments, private sector, labour representatives are working together to develop an appropriate framework at the international and national levels to eliminate and prevent child labour and forced labour and to promote the sustainability of the supply chain in general. It will try to identify the tools that can offer a strong leverage in the targeted countries and the gaps in the international and national policy legal and policy frameworks. In addition, interventions in the communities that are contributing to the supply chains, using an area-based approach, are essential to strengthen community resilience, prevent displacement from one form of child labour and forced labour to another, and thus ensure the complete elimination of these forms. As such, this session will explore as well the current initiatives aiming at eliminating child labour and forced labour through interventions that are community-based especially those that target cotton productions areas in particular. Chair: Mr Bernd Seiffert, FAO Panellists: - Ms C.W. Olde Olthof, Head of Unit, International Affairs Department, Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, The Netherlands - H.E. Mr Sekou dit Gaoussou Cisse, Ambassador, Embassy of Mali in Brussels - Ms Delphine Zoungrana, Responsable technique, Union des producteurs de coton, Burkina Faso - Mr Abdoulaye Diarra, Conseiller technique, Compagnie malienne pour le développement du textile (CMDT), Mali - Mr Francesco D'Ovidio, ILO Intervention by Mr Kai Hughes, Executive director, International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) Discussion with the audience
15:45-16:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:15-17:00	Main takeover from the event and the way forward, Mr Francesco D'Ovidio, ILO
17.00-17.15	Closing remarks Mr Stefano Signore, Head of Unit, DEVCO B3 "Migration, Employment", European Commission

Venue

The workshop and project launch on the *Elimination of child labour and forced labour in the cotton, textile and garment value chains* will be a public event at the hotel NH Brussels EU Berlaymont, boulevard Charlemagne, 11-19, 1000 Brussels.

Logistics cost coverage and arrangements

The ILO *Eliminating child labour and forced labour in the cotton, textile and garment value chains: an integrated approach* project will cover the costs of the event such as venue, meals and coffee breaks, cost of mission of resource people as per the ILO rules and regulations.

Conference organizers and contacts

For further information, please contact:

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Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch
(FUNDAMENTALS)

International Labour Office

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