Media Package
Contents

About the IV Global Conference 2
Topics 4
Panel sessions 5
Social Media 9
Relevant materials 9
Media accreditation 11
Media centre 11
Marketplace 12
Media contacts 12
About the IV Global Conference

What is at stake (Context)?

As per the most recent global estimates, 152 million children are still involved in child labour. 114 million of them start working before the legal age (15 years in most countries), putting at risk their access to education. 73 million are involved in hazardous child labour, potentially harming their physical or mental health. 4.3 million children and more than 20 million adults are victims of forced labour.

In addition, 71 million young persons between 15 and 24 years of age are unemployed, with additional millions entering the labour market each year. More than 160 million young workers have a job, but not a decent income and live in poverty.

What is the objective of the Conference?

The Government of Argentina, with the technical assistance of the International Labour Organization (ILO), will host the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour, from 14 to 16 November 2017, in Buenos Aires.

Over three days, representatives from governments, workers’ and employers’ organizations, international organizations, civil society and other experts will gather to exchange lessons learned and experiences, and to discuss global strategies aimed at accelerating child labour eradication in all its forms and contributing to the implementation of Agenda 2030, particularly reaching SDG target 8.7 on ending child labour, forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking. Within this context, strategies for quality employment creation for youth will also be addressed.

What is the Conference about (contents)?

The Global Conferences on Child Labour is a space for dialogue, sharing of good practices and action-oriented policy discussion, bringing together more than 1,000 representatives from governments, social partners, international organizations, civil society organizations and other experts. They evaluate the progress made on the elimination of child labour over recent years and discuss the way forward to accelerate its elimination, building on the commitments of the three previous Global Conferences in Oslo (1997), The Hague (2010), and Brasilia (2013).

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How will the Conference work (format)?

The Conference will include an opening ceremony as well as a high-level panel with the Director General of the ILO, the Argentinian Labor Minister, Nobel Prize Laureate Kailash Satyarthi and others. During nine thematic panels, participants will exchange experience, lessons learned and best practice on rights-based approaches, education, social protection, supply chains, hazardous child labour, conflict and crisis situations, rural development, youth employment and empowerment through knowledge. A set of 18 special sessions completes the official Conference programme, to give additional space to collaborative initiatives and efforts.

On the third and last day, the Conference will adopt an action-oriented “Buenos Aires Declaration”. For the first time, this Declaration will be supported by publicly presented concrete pledges formulated by Governments and other stakeholders. A “marketplace” is available for interested organizations to provide the Conference audience with more insights into their work and to disseminate materials.

The official Conference languages will be English, French and Spanish.

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Topics

The following topics will be addressed throughout the conference.

Child Labour
Children have the right to attend school, to play, to grow up in protected environments, and to enjoy their childhood. Nevertheless, 152 million children worldwide are in child labour. About half of these children are in hazardous work that is likely to jeopardize their health, safety or moral development. Eradicating child labour in the near future is possible. It requires governments, employers, workers and other key stakeholders to engage in joint actions that will accelerate action against this issue and guarantee all children a future with quality education, leisure, care and protection.

Forced Labour
Forced Labour is a serious human rights violation. It refers to all work or service which is exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily. This scourge is all around us, but most people do not realize it. 25 million men, women and children are victims of forced labour. A joint and coordinated effort by governments, employers, workers, and activists around the world can end forced labour once and for all.

Quality Youth Employment
Globally, young women and men set out in life with dreams, hopes and aspirations. However, in their transition to adulthood, many young people face many challenges that hinder their entry into the world of work. Generating more and better jobs for young people is a global challenge and a primary policy concern to be addressed. Initiatives to effectively promote decent work trajectories for young people calls for coordinated efforts from governments, employers, workers and other key actors everywhere.
Panel sessions

Each thematic panel will provide a tripartite perspective to the debate: from governments, employers and workers. The views of other key stakeholders, including UN agencies and civil society, will also enrich the discussions. To the extent possible, all panels will pay due consideration to appropriate gender and regional balance.

High level panel | From work without a future to a future of decent work – SDG 8.7 and beyond

There are still 152 million children in child labour and 25 million people in forced labour, including 4.3 million children. This high level panel will discuss how the rapidly transforming world of work should be organized so that it responds to the values of social justice for all. How can we build more effective, global, regional, national and local coalitions to accelerate the legislative, economic and social progress needed to end child labour in all its forms by 2025 and eradicate all forced labour by 2030? How do workers’ and employers’ organisations ensure that they continue to meet their responsibilities and maintain well-functioning and effective social dialogue and labour relations systems? What sort of education and skills will the next generation need to be able to lead fulfilling and creative lives if many of them face a future with much less standard forms of employment – or with none at all? How can we ensure that improvements in education systems – as a public good – reach every child and every young person? And what more must be done to ensure not only a smooth transition from school to work, but also a successful transition from early childhood to school?

Panel 1 | Rule of law, social dialogue and good governance

Policy and regulation matter, but what are the key frameworks for eliminating child labour and forced labour and how do they get effectively implemented? This panel looks at international and national regulatory frameworks and the application of these instruments at the national level through public policy and its implementation, including the role of enforcement, social dialogue, and partnerships. It will look at challenges and opportunities in adapting national regulatory frameworks to international standards, in particular human rights and labour standards, and share examples of good practices from governments and other stakeholders.

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Panel 2 | Education for all: making the right a reality

What action is needed to ensure quality, free, public, universal education for all children and young people as well as life-long learning for adults? This is key to ending child labour and forced labour, including in rural environments. This panel will discuss how to overcome the challenges faced and will focus, in particular, on the education of girls and early childhood development. It will examine ways to ensure every child enrolls and stays in school at least until the minimum age for work, the essentials of a quality, relevant curriculum and the characteristics of a safe and child-friendly school.

Panel 3 | Supply chains: getting on top of complexity

Why is the effective management of supply chains so critical to the eradication of child labour and forced labour and in ensuring compliance? This panel will look at different approaches to human rights due diligence and the importance of labour inspection and labour relation systems, following the adoption of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the tripartite Resolution concerning decent work in global supply chains adopted by the 105th Session of the ILC and the ILO Declaration on Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (revised). It will discuss the value of looking for strategic partnerships and explore the role of cross-border social dialogue at sectorial level to address child labour and forced labour in supply chains.

Panel 4 | Social protection: successes, challenges and future trends

How to reach the most vulnerable population who does not benefit from social protection systems? It is essential to strengthen these systems and expand their coverage and outreach, in particular in the informal and rural economies. This panel will analyse some of the social protection policies and programmes that have been particularly successful in preventing and reducing child labour and forced labour. It will, however, also point out that there is no room for complacency: an examination of emerging trends shows persistent challenges which need to be addressed.
Panel 5 | Hazardous child labour and safe and healthy work for youth

What are the health impacts of child labour? Unsurprisingly, it has devastating consequences on children’s health and development, particularly for those involved in hazardous work. This panel will explore these impacts and examine systems that can combat and prevent hazardous child labour and ensure safe and healthy working conditions for all workers, with a particular focus on youth of legal working age.

Panel 6 | Crisis and conflict: protecting the most vulnerable

What can be done to reduce the vulnerability to child labour and forced labour of people affected by fragile situations, natural disasters, armed conflict, violence and organized crime? Despite perceptions to the contrary, the situation is not hopeless. This panel will explore successful mechanisms for public policy and international and national cooperation as well as areas for further focus, including building on existing national mechanisms and bolstering collaboration and multilateral responses.

Panel 7 | Rural economy: meeting the new SDG timeframes

In order to meet SDG Goal 8.7, efforts within the rural economy need to be scaled up quickly. This panel will look at the main drivers of child labour and forced labour in the rural economy and examine strategies for their eradication, including the role of governments, enterprises, rural workers’ and small producers’ organizations in the promotion of rural and inclusive development. It will look at how decent jobs, including for youth, are created in rural areas, and examine strategies for transitioning from the informal to the formal rural economy; it will also discuss how to lift obstacles to the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining of agricultural workers and rural workers’ organizations.
Panel 8 | Youth employment and school-to-work transition

What is needed to ensure the next generation will have quality jobs and that child labour and forced labour are prevented and eliminated? This panel will explore employment trajectories and successful policies and systems for the integration of young people into productive, quality and formal jobs. It will examine skills and knowledge gaps between present training and labour market needs and look at successful approaches to reducing youth unemployment.

Panel 9 | Empowerment through knowledge: making data accessible to all

What do the new global estimates on child labour and modern slavery tell us about today’s challenge? This panel will explore recent data and research and look at the challenges this creates in the design of public policies. It will assess knowledge generation for the design of public policies and examine new tools for the production and dissemination of information and diagnosis for the elimination of child labour, forced labour, including the new global effort to build an Alliance 8.7 Knowledge Platform. It will discuss efforts to drive consistency in data production and research.
Social Media

The official hashtag of the conference is Conference is #CLConf17
Other hashtags also in use are: #NoChildLabour, #ForTheChildren

IV Global Conference accounts:
Facebook www.facebook.com/CLConf17
Twitter www.twitter.com/CLConf17

A social media guide with further information is available at:

Relevant materials

Publications

• 2017 Global Estimates: www.alliance87.org/2017ge
• World Report on Child Labour (to be released during the conference)
• Global child labour trends (to be released during the conference)
• National child labour survey reports, EN
• Brief on labour inspection and child labour monitoring, EN, FR, SP
• Inter-agency toolkit: Supporting the protection needs of child labourers in emergencies, EN
• Fishers first: Good practices to end labour exploitation at sea, 2016, EN

E-learning courses

• Eliminating child labour: An eLearning course for labour inspectors and child labour monitors, EN
• ILO-FAO eLearning course on child labour in agriculture, EN
• ELearning course on the Roadmap for achieving the elimination of the worst forms of child labour, EN

Guides

• Trade unions and child labour: A tool for action, EN, FR, SP
• Combating forced labour: A handbook for employers and business, 2015 revised edition, EN
• General principles and operational guidelines for fair recruitment, 2016,
Briefs

• ILO standards on Forced labour, the New Protocol and Recommendation at a glance, 2016, EN, FR, SP
• Key elements of the ILO Standards on Forced Labour, 2016, EN, FR, SP

Advocacy

• World Day Against Child Labour, EN, FR, SP
• 50 for Freedom campaign to end modern slavery, 2015, EN, FR, ES
• Alliance 8.7, EN
• Music Against Child Labour initiative brochure & manifesto, EN, FR, SP
• SCREAM Stop Child Labour education pack, EN, FR, SP
• Red Card to Child Labour, EN, FR, SP

Apps

• Eliminating and preventing child labour: Checkpoints app, EN
• Eliminating and Preventing Forced Labour: Checkpoints app, 2016, EN

Videos

• 2017 Global Estimates
  https://youtu.be/bJ5kNDAI0ZE
• Lured by a job, trapped in forced labour!
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pD0IT6q08bU
• Domestic workers’ rights: Let’s keep the momentum
• Landmark Forced Labour Protocol enters into force
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZpyul9JRTE&index=69&list=PL077D1DC843F1D3FD
• Fair Recruitment Matters
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZ3D24s4uYE
• It’s time to ratify the ILO’s Forced Labour Protocol
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JgiK1XfFqNM&index=8&list=PL077D1DC843F1D3FD

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Media accreditation

• All reporters, press workers and technical staff of the media (TV cameras, photographers, sound engineers, etc.) who wish to cover the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour should be duly registered through the official conference website (https://childlabour2017.org/en/press) and will receive confirmation by the Organization and the press services team.

The accredited press shall be divided into 3 groups:
• PRESS (graphic and online media journalists, radio journalists and reporters);
• PHOTOGRAPHERS; and
• TV CREWS


Media centre

• The Media Center is located in Yellow Pavilion at the Predio Ferial de Palermo, Av. Sarmiento 2704. Business hours will be 9 am to 7 pm.
• The pressroom is equipped with Internet wireless connection, computers with internet access and printers.
• The pressroom is equipped with TV screens with live broadcasts of the plenary sessions (closed circuit).
• Two media booths shall be available for the media with prior reservation. 30’ shifts are available.
• Coffee, tea and beverages, as well as cookies, will be available during the 3 days for the accredited press, courtesy of the Conference.
• Please do not leave your belongings unsupervised in the pressroom. The Conference organisers shall not be responsible for any lost items.
• Inside the pressroom, there will be a "pick-up information" area where speakers and participating companies may leave their press releases.
• All information and official content from the event (press releases, photographic material and highlights of the main sessions) shall be shared with the press through a Google Drive link/Dropbox.
Marketplace

As part of the Global Conference, there will be a designated area where all the international and national organisations will be able to display their programs, projects, innovations and solutions related to the prevention and eradication of child labour and forced labour, and to generate quality youth employment.

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