



20<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians  
Geneva, 10-19 October 2018

**Resolution to amend the 18th ICLS  
Resolution concerning statistics of  
child labour**

## Resolution to amend the 18<sup>th</sup> ICLS Resolution concerning statistics of child labour

The 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians,

Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office and having met from 10 to 19 October 2018,

Taking into consideration the relevant parts of the Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization, adopted by the 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2013,

Recognizing the need to harmonize the international statistical standards for the identification and classification of children in productive activities and child labour adopted by the 18<sup>th</sup> ICLS with those on work and employment adopted by the 19<sup>th</sup> ICLS,

Adopts this ... day of October 2018 the following amendment to the Resolution concerning statistics of child labour, adopted by the 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Labour Statisticians, 2008. The headings, paragraphs 11-16, 28, 32, 36-37, **39**, 53 and **61** and the Annex of the Resolution are substituted with the following headings, paragraphs and Annex:

### **Working children**

11. The broadest concept relating to the measurement of child labour is *working children*, that is, children engaged in any activity falling within the general production boundary as defined in the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA) (henceforth, referred to in this resolution as the “general production boundary”). This comprises **all children below 18 years of age engaged in any activity to produce goods or to provide services for use by others or for own use.**
12. Different forms of work by children are distinguished as follows:
  - a) *Own-use production work by children*, comprising production of goods and services for own final use;
  - b) *Employment work by children*, comprising work performed for other in exchange for pay or profit;
  - c) *Unpaid trainee work by children*, comprising work performed for others without pay to acquire workplace experience or skills;
  - d) *Volunteer work by children*, comprising non-compulsory work performed for others without pay;
  - e) *Other work activities by children*, not presently defined but including activities such as unpaid community services and unpaid work by prisoners, when ordered by a court or similar authority.
13. **Own use production of goods, employment, unpaid trainee work, volunteer work in market and non-market units (i.e. government and non-profit institutions serving households) and volunteer work in household producing goods are forms**

**of work within the SNA production boundary. Own-use provision of services and volunteer work in household producing services are forms of work outside the SNA production boundary but within the general production boundary.**

**The various forms of work by children should be measured with respect to a specified reference period. A child is considered to have engaged in a given form of work when performing such form of work for at least one hour during the relevant, specified reference period.**

### ***Child labour***

14. The term *child labour* reflects the engagement of children in prohibited work and, more generally, in types of work to be eliminated as socially and morally undesirable as guided by national legislation, the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), as well as their respective supplementing Recommendations (Nos 146 and 190). Child labour may be measured in terms of the engagement of children in work activities either on the basis of the general production boundary, or on the basis of the SNA production boundary, in line with the concepts and definitions specified in the 19<sup>th</sup> ICLS Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization, 2013. The underlying measurement framework should be clearly specified.
15. For the purpose of statistical measurement, children engaged in *child labour* include all persons aged 5 to 17 years who, during a specified time period, were engaged in one or more of the following categories of activities:
  - a) *worst forms of child labour*, as described in paragraphs 17-30; and
  - b) ~~employment and other forms of~~ work within the SNA production boundary performed by children below the minimum age, as described in amended paragraphs 32 and paragraphs 33 to 35.
  - c) *hazardous unpaid household services by children*, as described in amended paragraphs 36 and 37.

A schematic presentation of the statistical identification procedure for child labour is provided in the Annex.

16. When child labour is measured on the basis of the general production boundary, a child may be considered to be in child labour when the total number of hours worked ~~in employment and at other forms of work~~ in SNA and non-SNA production exceeds the thresholds that may be set for national statistical purposes. In order to facilitate comparison of child labour data across countries, when the general production boundary is applied for child labour measurement purposes, the estimates of child labour in terms of the SNA production boundary should also be provided.

### Long hours of work and night work by children

28. A child is considered to be working *long hours of work* if the number of hours actually worked at all jobs and work activities with the SNA production boundary during the reference period is above a specified threshold. The threshold may be determined in terms of the maximum number of hours of work that the national law or regulation sets for children who have reached the minimum working age. In the absence of such a specific limit for children, the threshold may be decided taking account of the regulation on the adult workers' normal working time. Hours actually worked should be defined in accordance with the latest international standards on the topic.

### Work in SNA production boundary below the minimum age

32. **Work within the SNA production boundary** below the minimum age includes any work within the SNA production boundary that is carried out by a child who is below the *minimum age* specified for the kind of work performed. Article 2 of the ILO Convention No. 138 stipulates that the minimum age for admission to employment or work should not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling and, in any case, not less than 15 years. Countries where the economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed are allowed, after consultation with organizations of employers and workers concerned, where such exist, to initially specify a minimum age of 14 years. Children in the age group 15 (or the national minimum age for employment, if different) to 17 years are, in principle, allowed to work, unless they are in "any type of work which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to jeopardize the health, safety or morals of young persons" (Article 3(1) of ILO Convention No. 138), or are engaged in one of the activities prohibited for children by ILO Convention No. 182 as cited in paragraph 17 above.

### Hazardous unpaid household services by children

36. The concept of *unpaid household services* as an element of child labour is applicable where the general production boundary is used as the framework for measuring child labour. It encompasses own-use production of services, or equivalently, production of domestic and personal services **within the general production boundary** by a household member for consumption within their own household, commonly called "household chores", as well as volunteer work in household producing services for others.
37. Hazardous unpaid household services by children are those performed in the child's own household under conditions corresponding to those defined in paragraph 20 above, that is, unpaid household services performed (a) for long hours, (b) in an unhealthy environment, involving unsafe equipment or heavy loads, (c) in dangerous locations, and so on. The definition of long hours in unpaid household services of children, relative to their age, may differ from the one applied in respect to children in **employment or children engaged in other forms of** work within the SNA

production boundary. The effect on a child's education should also be considered when determining what constitutes long hours.

### Data collection methods

39. [Insert following statement in the paragraph] **Time use surveys may also be appropriate for child labour measurement, particularly, where child labour is measured in the different forms of work.**

### Items of data collection

53. Statistics on working children should distinguish between categories of children in economic production, children engaged in unpaid household services, and children in other productive activities. Children who fall into two or more categories should be classified by each activity of their engagement. National statistical systems are also encouraged to develop methodologies for measuring child labour with respect to each form of work, distinguishing at least between child labour in employment, child labour in own-use production of goods, and, where applicable, child labour in own-use provision of services; and classifying by form of work, the overall child labour measured with respect to the SNA production boundary or the general production boundary.

### ILO manuals and questionnaires

61. To assist member countries in the task of collecting and analysing statistics on various aspects of **working children** and child labour, the ILO should update its manuals and model questionnaires on child labour statistics when necessary and possible, **and develop new reporting templates and mechanisms to facilitate the analysis and reporting of child labour survey results. The ILO should also develop appropriate guidelines for the measurement of child labour and, in particular, hazardous work of children by form of work.**

## Annex

## Framework for statistical identification of child labour

Age group	General production boundary					
	SNA production				Non-SNA production	
	(1a) Light work in SNA production <sup>1</sup>	(1b) Regular work in SNA production <sup>1</sup>	Worst forms of child labour		(3a) Hazardous unpaid household services <sup>2</sup>	(3b) Other work in non-SNA production
			(2a) Hazardous work in SNA production <sup>1</sup>	(2b) Worst forms of child labour other than hazardous work		
Children below the minimum age specified for light work (for example, 5-11 years) <sup>3</sup>	Employment and other forms of work below the minimum age for light work	Employment and other forms of work below the general minimum working age	Work in industries and occupations designated as hazardous, or work for long hours <sup>4</sup> and/or at night in industries and occupations not designated as hazardous	Children trafficked for work; forced and bonded child labour; commercial sexual exploitation of children; use of children for illicit activities and armed conflict	Own-use production of services or volunteer work in household producing services for long hours <sup>5</sup> ; involving unsafe equipment or heavy loads; in dangerous locations; etc.	
Children within the age range specified for light work (for example, 12-14 years) <sup>3</sup>						
Children at or above the general minimum working age (for example, 15-17 years) <sup>3</sup>						

<sup>1</sup> Work within SNA production boundary includes employment work, own-use production of goods, unpaid trainee work, volunteer work in market and non-market units and volunteer work in household producing of goods, in line with 19<sup>th</sup> ICLS *Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization*, 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Category (3a) is applicable where the general production boundary is used as the measurement framework for child labour.

<sup>3</sup> Age-group limits may differ across countries depending upon the national circumstances.

<sup>4</sup> The threshold for long hours of work in SNA production should take into account the age of the child and the cumulative hours worked at employment and at other forms of work in SNA production.

<sup>5</sup> The threshold for long hours of work at unpaid household services should take into account the age of the child and the cumulative hours worked at employment and at other forms of work in SNA and non-SNA production.

 Denotes child labour as defined by the amended resolution

 Denotes activities not considered child labour