

**Fifth sitting**

Friday, 11 June 2010, 10.15 a.m.

*President: Mr de Robien***GLOBAL REPORT UNDER THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE ILO
DECLARATION ON FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND
RIGHTS AT WORK***Original French: The PRESIDENT*

Today, we are going to be discussing the Global Report, *Accelerating action against child labour*, which is the third of its kind to be published on the work to combat child labour. The ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work was adopted in 1998, showing the commitment of both governments and employers' and workers' organizations to those genuine work-related human rights that form the bedrock of the ILO's Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).

At the request of the Governing Body, our discussion this year is going to be more interactive than in the past, taking the form of a round table discussion led by our moderator, Ms Tabatabai.

Before we begin, I would like to remind you of the importance and relevance of the information in the Global Reports which have, over the years, allowed us to have a better grasp of the major trends and developments in the implementation of the ILO's eight core Conventions.

The 1998 Declaration and its follow-up definitely have had an especially visible impact in the area of combating child labour, but there is still much to be done, as we can see in the Report that is before us today, to eradicate the worst forms of child labour by 2016.

Since the Declaration was adopted, we have seen a remarkable increase in the number of countries that have ratified the core Conventions, with a truly historic breakthrough in the number of ratifications of Conventions Nos 138 and 182. Speaking on behalf of the International Labour Conference, I would like to pay a special tribute to the work done in this area by Mr Kari Tapiola, who is here at my side, and to express to him our deepest gratitude.

Abolishing child labour is something which is very close to my heart. I had the honour last month to take part in the Hague Global Child Labour Conference organized by the Government of the Netherlands, and I would particularly like to extend to Mr Donner, the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment of the Netherlands, my most sincere appreciation for the efforts in which he invited us to join him and thanks to which the Hague Conference adopted the Road map for achieving the elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016.

The conference was a great success and I think we owe that to Mr Donner and should show him our deepest gratitude.

On a personal note, speaking as a former Minister of Education, I would like to stress, as I did in the Hague, that it is vitally important to root out the causes of child labour. The best, indeed the only, remedy, is education: Education as the way out of labour, the path to follow, the springboard for development and poverty reduction; and it calls for the will to do it. That strong political commitment on the part of one and all exists.

Today, we are celebrating World Day against Child Labour 2010, an event that has taken place every year since 2002 with a view to drawing the whole world's attention to the issue of child labour. Today and tomorrow, in more than 60 countries around the world, and in cooperation with governments, social partners and civil society, the ILO will obviously support the awareness-raising activities, aiming to bring this year's theme to the fore: *go for the goal – end child labour*. Other United Nations agencies will also be contributing to the World Day. I will therefore invite you after the statement from the representative of the Secretary-General, to raise the red cards you were given as you came in: Show the red card to child labour.

But first, I now give the floor to the representative of the Secretary-General to present the general thrust of the Global Report.

Mr TAPIOLA (The Representative of the Secretary-General)

Nearly two decades ago, the aim of eliminating child labour was embraced globally. The work of the constituents of the ILO has been instrumental in bringing child labour out of the shadows. There has been a tremendous level of mobilization and a great sense of purpose and of possibility. Four years ago, the previous Global Report on child labour showed an encouraging decline. We believed that the goal of ending child labour was within reach and we were optimistic enough to aim to end its worst forms by 2016. The present Global Report contains further encouraging findings – it estimates that, since the last Report was published, child labour has fallen by 10 per cent among children aged between 5–14. The number of children aged 5–14, working in hazardous conditions fell by 31 per cent. The number of girls involved in child labour has decreased by 15 per cent.

However, there is some bad news, too. We have seen a 20 per cent increase in child labour among the 15–17 age group. These are mainly children of

legal working age, who are working in hazardous conditions, namely the worst forms of child labour.

Also of grave concern is the fact that child labour is a growing phenomenon in sub-Saharan Africa, although it has followed a downward trend elsewhere. Overall, progress has slowed down. From 2004 to 2008, the rate of decline was just 3 per cent, compared to 10 per cent during the previous four year period. Judging by present trends, the goal on ending the worst forms of child labour by 2016 will not be met. This means that the goal of eliminating child labour will slip out of reach if we do not take accelerated action. You will be discussing these findings today. The most critical contributions will be your views on how to provide a new impetus for action against child labour. The challenges ahead may seem daunting, campaign fatigue may exist, and donor fatigue may be creeping in, aggravated by the economic crisis. However, let us recall that none are as fatigued as the children trapped in child labour.

In a photo exhibition at the ILO building, you will see some of the faces of child labour. These are not the faces of children earning pocket money in their spare time, or helping out around the house, farm or business. These photos tell the story of hard, dirty and often dangerous labour that none of us would accept for our children, and what is unacceptable for our children cannot be tolerated for others.

Behind each image is a child with hopes and dreams. These dreams often revolve around a future with a decent job, as a teacher, a doctor, a police officer, a tailor, a farmer, or perhaps a football player. These were also the hopes of the children who marched into this hall in 1998 and in 1999, and whose presence was a reminder of our goal.

The Government of the Netherlands, for one, has taken up the gauntlet laid down in the previous Global Report, and it has led by example by convening a global conference on child labour, in order to galvanize action in May of this year.

Mr Donner, we sincerely thank you for your commitment. Thank you for being here today to share the outcome of the Hague Conference, convened by your Government, and the road map that delegates at that conference agreed on and which can, and should, further inspire the discussions here.

Let me also acknowledge the work that so many other UN agencies are doing, in so many ways, to ensure that children are released from child labour. I also thank them for joining us in marking this day, including as expressed in a recent statement from the UN Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on Human Rights, Education in the School System.

Our thanks also go to all the others who are mobilizing on this day across the globe.

As the Global Report clearly stated, “business as usual” is not an option. We must invest now in policies that will guarantee this fundamental right and put an end to child labour. We must ensure quality education for all children at least up to the minimum age of employment. There must not be a gap between primary education and the minimum age of entry into employment. Education must be accessible and relevant. A well-educated population is better placed to engage in productive employment, and to contribute to development and economic growth. The umbrella of social protection must be extended to the vulnerable, as providing support to families enables them to keep children, all children, in school. Too often, when poor families must choose

between educating a boy or a girl, the girl loses out. Working out of poverty must be a fundamental component of the strategy against child labour. This means promoting decent work. Decent work opportunities must be made available to adults, especially young persons and parents. This is the ILO’s integrated decent work strategy that is set out in the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization. The implementation of this approach is a test of our policies for sustainable development. It is a message that we also must take to the Millennium Development Goal Summit later this year. However, today it is time to listen to your voices in this discussion on the Global Report.

Original French: The PRESIDENT

As you probably imagined, many of us will be glued to the television this evening to watch the first few matches of the World Cup in South Africa, but we should remember that many children in this world today will not have time even to go to school and certainly not to watch television. The World Day against Child Labour, under the slogan *go for the goal – end child labour*, is particularly timely here today.

Colleagues, as you entered the hall this morning, you were handed a red card. It was not a red card referring to your actions, but a red card that we would like you to use. Before we begin the discussion this morning, I would ask all of you to pick up your red cards. Please stand up and brandish this red card, the “red card against child labour”.

Let us show our commitment to the aim of eradicating child labour.

I am now going to open the debate in accordance with some of the rules on suspension which were adopted at the second sitting. I would like to begin by explaining how things are going to be organized today. This morning our moderator, Ms Zohreh Tabatabai, will be moderating a debate amongst the members of the panel, and will give the floor to people who wish to speak from the floor.

I am now going to ask the moderator Zohreh Tabatabai to introduce the panellists, and also to describe to us how she is planning to conduct our debate here today.

The MODERATOR

Today is about hearing your voices: about what you have tried out that has been successful in your countries; about what you propose to do in the future; and about sharing. This meeting is to be interactive, so I beg you to keep your interventions short.

Millions of children today are looking to you to make their world a better place.

Our panellists today have come from all parts of the world. Minister Donner, who held one of the best and most energized meetings on child labour, with a real feeling that we were making inroads, a month ago in The Hague. The next panellist is Ms Maria Fernanda de Carvalho Francisco, of the National Union of Angolan Workers – Trade Union Confederation (UNTA-CS).

We also have: the Workers’ delegate Mr Adyanthaya, who was with us in The Hague; Ms Marina Victoria Velásquez de Avilés, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare of El Salvador; Mr Tim Parkhouse, representing the employers’ organization of Namibia; Ms Myra Hanartani, Director-General, Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration of Indo-

nesia; Mr Guirieoulou, Minister for the Public Service and Employment, Côte d'Ivoire and Mr Javed, who represents the employers of Pakistan, but has had many previous lives in government as well.

Mr DONNER (*Minister of Social Affairs and Employment, Netherlands*)

We did indeed host a conference on child labour, but to put this conference in its proper perspective, I want to stress that it was held at the behest of the International Labour Organization and was organized in close cooperation with the offices of the ILO.

As you will recall, the Governing Body, in concluding its discussion on the 2006 Global Report, adopted a Global Action Plan, in which it called for the organization of a global conference to reinvigorate the worldwide movement against child labour and to assess progress towards the 2016 goal of the elimination of child labour in its worst forms. Upon the request of the ILO, the Netherlands was glad to accommodate such a conference. We have a long-standing commitment to the aim of eliminating child labour, particularly in its worst forms; we think child labour is a scourge for children and society because it robs both of them of their youth and future, degrades children and the society in which it is found, and threatens international relations, because countries that take measures to abolish child labour will find it harder if other countries in the region do not take similar measures. We believe that, although child labour has a long history, it should have no future.

Why this conference at this moment? Because we think, in the present crisis, we stand at a crossroads in the fight against child labour.

Countries will be tempted to let the elimination of child labour in its worst forms take second place to their efforts to recover from the economic crisis, but by taking that route, the aim of eliminating child labour in its worst forms will become unattainable, even though we have made huge progress since the adoption of that goal in 2006.

This is confirmed by the Global Report we are now discussing because it shows that the number of child workers, fell worldwide from 222 million to 215 million, but the decline is slowing down, and child labour is on the increase in sub-Saharan Africa due to war and AIDS. Moreover, 150 million children are still subjected to child labour in its worst forms.

Thus, hosting the conference in the Hague was something like an act of faith by the Netherlands Government in the worldwide commitment to eliminate child labour in its worst forms. I am therefore glad to inform you that the participants in the conference rose to the occasion and adopted a road map for achieving the elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016. A copy of the road map is in the room and you will find it in your lockers as well.

Original Portuguese: Ms DE CARVALHO FRANCISCO (Worker, Angola)

Before replying to your question, I would like to make some comments which I think are important, just to give those present an idea.

First of all, I would like to refer to the fact that Angola, my country, has only had eight years of peace. Angola has had decades of war, which ended

in April 2002, and this must be taken into account in discussing the issue.

Statistics indicate that most of the Angolan population is young. More than 60 per cent of the population is under the age of 18. As everyone knows, Angola became independent in 2005, but, when we achieved independence, more than 75 per cent of the population was illiterate, so when we became independent we already had problems linked to education. Fortunately, our Constitution establishes the principle of protecting the rights of children, especially in terms of education, health and living conditions.

Angola ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and also the Minimum Age Conventions, 1973 (No. 138), and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).

Work is being done by the Angolan Government. The Government has created the National Institute for Children, a public institution that protects children's rights and ensures they are defended. But we have had 50 years of war, and, as the world knows, war is synonymous with destruction, suffering, hunger and poverty. Educational structures had been practically destroyed by the end of the war.

Although indicators do show growth for Angola since 2005, all the work that has been done is still not enough. Angolan children are still vulnerable to child labour.

Our union has embraced the projects of the ILO since 2007. A group of union members from Portuguese-speaking countries held a meeting in Brazil to exchange experiences and study the situation there. The meeting allowed for discussion of the challenge of implementing the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) in Angola, for the protection of children.

Much has been done in recent years. Our first challenge was to build a school to promote the Programme in Angola and see how it could help us to combat child labour. But when we began our awareness campaign, contrary to our expectations, we found that from one school the Programme spread quickly to 56. In these 56 schools all the teachers were interested in the project, but for organizational reasons, we have only managed to keep 40 teachers. Now we have 40 teachers who are working alongside employers. As a goal, we have suggested that by the end of 2010 we should have 1,500 teachers, who will work with Angolan schools in the future to make children aware of the risks and become active in society to save future children from child labour.

In Angola, the phenomenon is most widespread in rural areas. Angolan law prohibits child labour, but cases are often reported by the unions and also by the rest of society. In our formal system, however, if child labour is used, sanctions are imposed by the authorities, but it is mainly in rural areas that we have child labour, in families. For example, children are used to pick the crops and also for domestic tasks. We need to try and overcome this and defend children against child labour.

In Angola, people who live in urban areas have often come from rural areas. They try to find girls who are less privileged and bring them in to do domestic work. Our unions are united against this. We are trying to give our support to overcoming this phenomenon in Angola.

Before answering that particular question, I would like to say a few things about the eradication of child labour as far as my country is concerned. The population of the country, as you know, reached more than 1.1 billion and only 7 per cent of the workforce is in the formal economy, 93 per cent of the workforce is in the informal economy and in villages.

So this is a very complex problem and, at the same time, I must tell you that my country has not ratified Convention No. 182 or Convention No. 138, most important, two core Conventions. I expect that, at the shortest time, at least soon after this Conference, they will open their eyes and ratify these two Conventions.

Now, you raised certain important questions. Yes, the role of trade unions is very, very important. First of all, as well as implementing the national policy at the national level of effective engagement, trade unionists can play a very vital role in tripartite consultations. That is one. And, at the same time, because, as I said earlier, only 7 per cent of workers in the organized sector, the remaining 93 per cent are in the informal economy, we have to stretch ourselves, though we have constraints on resources, the trade unions have constraints on these resources, and we have to stretch ourselves to work in the villages where the real child labour market is.

That is the market from which it feeds into the towns or the cities, so this is where our role is very important. At the same time, I welcome the ongoing joint IPEC–ACTRAV programme of training for trade union activists, this is a very important aspect. But, most of all, child labour exists overwhelmingly in agriculture, both formal and informal.

In other sectors of the informal economy also, for instance domestic workers, a very important discussion is going on in this area. I am afraid my country is opposed to that Convention.

On the other side, my Prime Minister himself has said that, although we have social stimulus packages for the global economy, in 200 districts it is not implemented because government representatives cannot go into those villages to implement them because of nationalism and terrorism that has been experienced by ministers. The bureaucratic will to achieve progress is most essential.

Then the primary need is for sectoral as well as area approaches to eliminating child labour and it is best, of course, if the two are combined. The sectoral approach is based on that fundamental purpose, organizing workers, negotiating improvements to workplaces in enterprises and pressing for the formalization of the informal economy.

But, at the same time, the most important factories, all the social partners, the Government, employers and workers, should work in tandem to eliminate this scourge. The most important thing is: this is a labour market issue; that is why decent work for youth and families is very pertinent and important.

With regard to the employment of rural informal workers, our Government has introduced the “100 days of work” programme for rural workers. The Government has accepted, the Prime Minister himself has accepted, that there is widespread corruption in the programme. If it is to be effective, all the social partners should be taken into consideration at the implementation level, at the grass-roots level.

I think this is an important opportunity, as a country, to give our view on how we are involved in the elimination of the worst forms of child labour; we hope to put an end to it by 2016 and to child labour in general by 2020.

There are three basic concepts to this issue: urgency, importance and need. We cannot allow the world economic and financial crisis that is affecting us and imposing poverty, inequality and unemployment on us from carrying out our commitments, not only our legal commitments but our ethical and Christian commitments. We have made successful steps towards achieving these objectives.

In El Salvador, my country, we have created a road map that connects all the public policies and strategies presented in November–December 2009 on the fight against poverty, strengthening education and health, comprehensive protection of rights under the Constitution and national and international legislation, such as compliance with the ratification of the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No.182). It also includes awareness raising and social mobilization, because we cannot just be observers or remain indifferent to or sceptical of these commitments.

Finally, to the follow-up to achievements and obstacles. We are making efforts to achieve, slowly, these objectives. But more than what we have been able to do as a country, requirements go much further than that; we must speed up the process because 215 million children throughout the world are waiting for us adults to take up this challenge. If we have all ratified the Global Jobs Pact and if every country strengthened their national job pact, it would be a profoundly ethical commitment. We are working on this in El Salvador because it is only thanks to these national employment pacts that we are going to be able to provide decent work to adults so that families do not use child labourers and do not use them as an opportunity to increase family income. This is an important appeal, and El Salvador has a strong political will, thanks to the change of Government, in concentrating on this theme of eliminating the worst forms of child labour, and of child labour in general by 2020. We have been discussing domestic work, and we have our Social Security Director here, and have extended this to domestic work, because doesn't domestic work represent one of the worst forms of child labour? It is high time that we the State went into houses to see what is happening to child domestic workers.

I think one of the things one should look at first about Namibia is the size of the country. I ask you to envisage a map of Europe: Berlin in the north east; London in the north west; and Rome in the south. That is the size of our country – Berlin, London, Rome – and we have 2.2 million people.

Our crisis is how to reach out to these people and take the message to them. The Employers, have come up with a proposal, which we have already tested with the ILO, regarding how to get the message out to the rural community. If you have listened to the other speakers, you will have seen that

the same themes appear: rural poverty and unemployment.

Our problems concern the rural areas. We put our plans on the table. First of all, the ILO told us to make CDs, hold workshops and draw up policies. We said, hold it, we want to do something. Half of the people we are talking about have no electricity, let alone a computer to read a CD. Many of them are also illiterate.

Therefore, we are going to go out into the bush and we are going to take the message of eliminating child labour to the bush. Our plan is to obtain a 4x4 off-road vehicle, which is indispensable in the areas we are talking about, as there are no asphalt roads.

We are going to have a huge collapsible cinema screen, a mobile portable generator and a projector. These will be put up in the villages, farms, churches, schools or under trees, and we will show the people a locally produced, namely Namibian, film about child labour.

We will have somebody on site who can speak at least two or three of the 11 indigenous languages. This person will travel, and will spend three weeks a month in the bush, taking the message to the people.

We hope that this will raise sufficient awareness, so that we can make progress in combating child labour in our country. I would just like to mention some statistics. We estimate that out of a population of 2.2 million, there are 80,000 AIDS orphans. These orphans obviously also have siblings whom they support, or try to support.

We estimate that there are 30,000 children in Namibia who are not able to go to school because they have to work.

If we take this message out to the bush, under the trees, to the farms, we believe we will achieve something.

Ms HANARTANI (*Government, Indonesia*)

Your question makes me recall the situation of ten years ago. So I just want to correct something. We have in fact ratified *all* the core Conventions, not *most* core Conventions.

Ten years ago, our population was 216 million. Of the 216 million, we had 65 million aged from 5 to 19 years. At that time, of course, we did not ignore the rights of children, because starting from 1998, Indonesia reaffirmed its respect for democracy and human rights, including those of its 65 million children and young people. So that is why we worked to ratify these Conventions.

Of course, all the Conventions are good, but the Conventions on child labour are good because not any single parent in the world would like to have his own children working at a young age.

That is why it is not really so difficult because everybody agrees, and we have a national consensus, that children have their own rights to study, to education, to develop in their own way.

Having the common interest is good but it is not enough. We need to have the legal basis. That is why we ratified these core Conventions. In 1999 we ratified the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and then a year later we ratified the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).

In 2001 we established a national committee for the eradication of child labour, for awareness raising. I mention this because everybody agreed that it is not good that children have to work at an early

age. So, it was not too difficult to make them aware in this sense. But then we have to think about the practical aspects. That is why the Government takes action to make a serious programme on this. We have specified in our regulations that 20 per cent of the budget should be allocated for education. Even though it has not yet actually reached 20 per cent, it is our political intention to achieve this. It shows that everybody agrees that child labour should be eradicated in Indonesia.

Until now, we worked together with the ILO, and also with other donors on this. We already have some initiatives in the provinces, some 33 provinces and more than 500 local government administrations. In Indonesia we have 1.9 million square kilometres in land area. We have 109,000 kilometres of coast line. We have 17,000 islands and more than 1,000 ethnic groups. You can imagine the difficulty of coordinating all these groups to achieve one goal, to eradicate child labour. Anyway, I think, as you say, we are doing well in Indonesia. Still, we have a lot of work to do, but with the help of the ILO and other donors and international groups I think we can do better.

Original French: Mr GUIRIOULOU (Minister, Public Service and Employment, Côte d'Ivoire)

Côte d'Ivoire had the honour and privilege of chairing the Committee which drafted the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), so we feel very involved in it. We look upon this Convention as our baby and we are very proud of it. Child labour exists in Côte d'Ivoire and we are determined to combat it in the firmest possible way.

Together with the International Labour Office and, more specifically, together with IPEC, my country has organized a number of activities since 2003. Two programmes have been set up in cooperation with the ILO. The first is the WACAP programme, which was established to combat child labour in the cocoa industry. We have also set up committees against child labour at various levels of our administration, at the department, local authority and village level, and to carry out awareness-raising campaigns for various communities.

Together with IPEC, we have developed a project to combat child trafficking in Central and Western Africa. Four studies have been carried out under the project to reinforce our awareness-raising capabilities in combating child trafficking. We have been working with journalists, security enforcement agents, labour inspectors and members of local committees on vigilance to combat child trafficking and also families who have taken in children who are victims of child trafficking.

We have also established committees to monitor and identify children who are being exploited or have been trafficked. This has allowed us to make sure that some of these children can attend school or take an apprenticeship and that those who are above school age can undergo literacy programmes. We have also strengthened our subregional cooperation, because, although we have this problem in Côte d'Ivoire, we need to look at it in a subregional context. There is trafficking between Côte d'Ivoire and some of our neighbours.

Thanks to our cooperation with IPEC, we have been able to establish a global plan at the national level: our national programme to combat trafficking and the worst forms of child labour. It is based on five main approaches. I will not go into detail at this

point but the cost of this is some US\$7,256,000. With this programme, since 2007, we have been able to carry out a number of campaigns to combat child labour.

To this I need to add that we have adopted a draft Bill banning child trafficking and the worst forms of child labour. The Government has just adopted this draft Bill.

We have also undertaken specific actions to raise awareness about issues relating to cocoa plantations. We also have more specific forms of action, for example, we have developed a specific programme to help children working in cocoa plantations. We have a steering committee, chaired by the Prime Minister, with representatives from various ministries whose work is affected by the issue of child labour.

Thanks to this project we have been able to mobilize society and raise awareness of this issue and put in place education and health centres for children and their parents who live in affected areas. A further aim of the project is to help households raise their levels of income.

The results so far are fairly promising. Out of 30 villages, ten already have the infrastructure in place. An investment fund for rural regions has also been set up by the Government and every year some US\$24 million are placed in this fund so that, in the cocoa-growing areas, this money can be used to improve infrastructure and living conditions.

Hydraulic pumps, for example, have been installed in villages to make it easier to get drinking water. School canteens and classrooms have been provided so that children whose parents work in the plantations can get a meal at school and can attend school regularly. These funds are also spent on building health centres and improving tracks and roads so that transport is easier. Some €44 million has been spent on these efforts over the last two years. But we still have a long way to go and we still need to do a lot of work before we get to the goal of eliminating child labour by 2016.

The prevalence of child labour is of course a result of poverty, so it needs to be part of the overall national development plan, which we have done. In our 2009–13 strategic document on poverty, we have incorporated the battle against child labour. The National Employment Council, which we are going to set up soon, will also be asked to address this issue. We feel that child labour affects the labour of adults, but improving working conditions for adults will lead to the eradication of child labour.

Mr JAVED (*Employer, Pakistan*)

Tomorrow, on 12 June, the world will be celebrating World Day against Child Labour, and I have the honour to speak, on behalf of the Employers' group, on this important subject as part of this panel. I must congratulate the ILO on developing a very attractive and timely theme of *go for the goal – end child labour*, coinciding with the soccer World Cup that is starting today in South Africa.

I am honoured to be from Pakistan, the country which is linked to the World Cup by supplying soccer balls. The Report of the Director-General, *Accelerating action against child labour*, urges all of us to step up our efforts to eliminate at least the worst forms of child labour by a target of 2016.

The Report very correctly identifies the main instrument: political will. I am very pleased to report

to this august house that, in Pakistan, not only have we ratified both Conventions, but we have been able to implement them or the most of them. And why it was so in a developing economy like ours, is that, in Pakistan, which is a predominantly Muslim country, it is part of our faith and the great prophet Muhammad emphasized and told us that those who do not respect elders and do not care for children are not among us. So, it is very important that we should have, and we have, ratified most of the core Conventions and, in particular, the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), and I must thank the Government, the Workers' group and the employers of Pakistan, who are very sensitive in implementing it.

In Pakistan we have taken an initiative where, periodically, we review the list of hazardous work: all the tripartite constituents sit together and we update it. In the very recent update, the number of hazardous activities of work increased to 39. The Employers' Federation of Pakistan has taken an initiative and we have formulated a code of conduct for six hazardous types of work, mostly in the informal sector. I would like to report to this august house that the worst form of child labour is mostly in the informal sector: as my Indian colleague has said, over 90 per cent is in the informal sector. Let us not be mistaken – it is not only in the developing economies that the informal sector is growing. In the Hague and Brussels conferences, we were not surprised to hear that the SME and informal sector is as high as 70 per cent, even in some developed economies.

So, the six sectors that we targeted and worked with as employers included the glass bangle industry, because we have wonderful production of glass bangles and there used to be a lot of child labour in this sector. Thanks to the ILO, with their intervention and assistance, we have not been able to completely eliminate it, but we were able to reduce it and, most importantly, we could raise awareness among the public of the issue in this industry.

The second important area is that Pakistan is one of the main exporters in the surgical instrument sector and we intervened when we heard reports of children working in this industry. We produce excellent leather products, but in leather tanning it was reported that child labour was used so we intervened; there was a lot of child labour involved in deep-sea fishing so we intervened. This was the Employers' group. And then in the province of Baluchistan where we have coal mines – we intervened there. And lastly, but not least, in the rag-picking sector, which you see in developing countries when you land and enter any airport.

I am pleased to report that, owing to the efforts of our tripartite constituents and the willingness of the Government, today in Pakistan, nobody sleeps in the street during the night. We do not claim that we have overcome all the problems, but we have the willingness to overcome them.

We have been able to establish a centre for improving working conditions, where the methodology, the machines and the processes are designed so that the worst forms of hazardous working conditions are minimized.

The MODERATOR

Minister Donner, what were, in your view, the achievements of the Hague conference? And give us some of the highlights of the road map, perhaps.

Mr DONNER (*Minister of Social Affairs and Employment, Netherlands*)

I think the conference in The Hague confirmed the picture you had already formed in this discussion that, first of all, political will is the most important factor in efforts to tackle child labour and that the political will to tackle the problem does exist. A large number of the ILO constituents who attended the conference in The Hague, namely ministers, representatives of the social partners and all the relevant international and civil society organizations, expressed their willingness to take action.

At the end of the conference, many countries made commitments to host national or regional meetings, and to set aside special funds to combat child labour in its worst forms. That was one aspect of the conference.

The second aspect was an exchange involving many interesting examples of successful projects that may also inspire other countries. I would like to mention one positive example, namely Brazil's success in implementing the conditional cash transfer programme whereby poor households are provided with a certain amount of cash on a regular basis, on the condition that the beneficiaries fulfil certain obligations aimed at human development such as sending their children to school. Brazil is putting a lot of effort into this project and that is why I am pleased to announce that the third outcome of the conference in The Hague, was the fact that Brazil agreed to organize a follow-up Global Child Labour Conference in 2012–13, in order to assess the progress made along the path to 2016. I believe it will be extremely useful for us to meet again.

Now I would also like to stress another important factor in achieving results, namely that both the preparation and the adoption of the road map were a joint effort involving Worker and Employer representatives. I want to thank the Vice-Presidents of the Conference in The Hague, Mr Adyanthaya and Mr Lima Godoy both present here in the room, whose presence was of great importance as a result of their involvement in tackling child labour, their efforts to reach a balanced agreement and their support for the road map in their concluding remarks.

The road map stresses that governments are primarily responsible for tackling child labour, but in their efforts they need the support and cooperation of employers' and workers' organizations, and that of non-governmental organizations. The road map emphasizes that the main measures to be taken involve education, social protection and decent work for adults. An integrated approach to child labour, within a broader policy framework, is essential at all levels.

The road map spells out priority actions for all these groups and provides useful guidance. It is not enough to merely adopt the road map, and the text of the road map also mentions the issue of the follow-up. In order to achieve the aim of eliminating the worst forms of child labour, it is vital to keep the subject high on the agenda and to keep track of the progress made with regard to implementing the agreements set out in the road map. It is absolutely essential for all of us to know what measures do or

do not work and what remains to be done to tackle child labour. I think we must assist each other, and this assistance involves monitoring progress during the few short years that remain until 2016. Once again, the road map is an essential tool in that respect.

At the end of the Global Child Labour Conference in The Hague, Mr Tapiola, who spoke on behalf of Mr Somavia, kindly invited me to bring the energy of that conference to this International Labour Conference. He said that the Conference would certainly welcome the introduction of the road map into discussions on the Global Report at the Conference and that is why I was glad to accept his invitation. As the road map clearly stresses the leading role of the ILO in all matters relating to child labour, I firmly believe that it can help the ILO to achieve one of its main goals, namely the elimination of child labour. I would like to stress once again, as I did in The Hague, that eliminating child labour, and its worst forms in particular, is a moral necessity. As I said, child labour has a long history, but it should have no future.

The MODERATOR

What I would now like to ask our panellists is this: the ILO is working with you all in the eradication of child labour, with its Conventions, its pilot projects and so on. What do you think of the activities that the ILO carries out together with you? What do you think is most important in your part of the world?

Mr JAVED (*Employer, Pakistan*)

I think the most important initiative which the ILO has taken in recent years is combating child labour through education and training – providing basic education and then skills training. Because it is in the Global Report, as well as in the road map, which we have been able to develop under the chairmanship of the honourable minister from the Netherlands, that education is one of the primary and most important factors, if we are talking about, if not eliminating, at least reducing, child labour. Then, with education, the most important thing for employability is vocational and skills training.

I would like to add something on the conditional cash payments. As the honourable minister said, and report that in two of our districts in Pakistan from last year, 2009, in Sialkot and Gujranwala, we have started dispersing a conditional cash payment to the most vulnerable families who are facing the child labour issues and we are going to replicate this in an additional two districts, one in the Province of Punjab, that is District Sahiwal, and another in the Province of Sindh in Sukkur, where tomorrow the Employers' Federation of Pakistan is celebrating the annual day. And one more initiative: I would like to point out that the Employers' Federation of Pakistan has planned to launch a programme that all the major employers should volunteer to take 5 to 10 children who are facing child labour and adopt them for all the social responsibilities, giving them education from primary level to university, and health care. And in our country, as I mentioned, it is not difficult to implement. As the President of the Employers' Federation of Pakistan, I am going to launch this programme in July, nationwide, because, according to our faith, we have to pay two and a half per cent of our possessions to those who are dispossessed. This is obligatory and we call it *zakat*, and every-

body has to do it as an obligation. So we have funds available, we have this willingness, and I will request through the Chair of this august house that from today we should adopt each one, teach one. While we are educating our own children, each family should take responsibility for giving an education to one needy child. Believe me, governments on their own cannot solve this problem. It is you and I who have to come up and solve this problem. In history, the great nations are those that have taken care of the vulnerable. If we are just grooming and bringing up our own families, wives and children, even our pets, even animals also do that. We are human beings, so we have to do a little more.

Ms HANARTANI (*Government, Indonesia*)

With regard to the work of the ILO in Indonesia, I think maybe it could be a more interrelated programme. For example, when we are implementing IPEC, it must be related to other UN programmes. All programmes and projects in Indonesia should be interrelated with the goal of eliminating child labour. As a next step, more could be done to look at interrelated ILO programmes in certain countries.

The second thing is to express our gratitude for the fact that not long ago, earlier this year, the ILO and the Government collaborated on a survey on child labour. This was the first survey ever specifically on child labour, and it produced a good outcome. We are very grateful for this, and maybe we can make surveys on child labour more regular, because we can create a better programme if we have good, reliable data.

Original Spanish: Ms VELÁSQUEZ DE AVILÉS (*Minister of Labour and Social Protection, El Salvador*)

When we adopted our road map we also took on the notion that young people and children would be rights holders and not the object of rights. I think that this is something that all of us, employers, governments and workers, have to really take on board. If we, as countries, don't work together and prioritize children and teenagers, then we will not make much progress in the development of our countries.

In my country, the road map is a real commitment that has been entered into by the Government. This shows that there is political will. We are developing programmes, "School for all", for example, and what we also want to do is try and help children between 14–18 years old that have to work to acquire the skills to study at the same time. We want to give them that opportunity in schools.

We are also improving health through vaccination schemes and other types of medical assistance. We are also looking at food so that the children are stronger, so that they can be children first before being launched prematurely onto the labour market. And also what we are trying to do is reach out to poorer families so that a certain amount of money can be allocated for each child that goes to school instead of working.

The work that is being done by the ILO is fundamental, as is its work with IPEC. But we have to strengthen our own national jobs pacts. We need to have decent work. We need to have social dialogue. We need to have institutional capacity building and we have to call upon trade unionists and trade unions to factor the elimination of child labour into their everyday work. They really have to get involved in eliminating child labour. It is not just a government issue. It is not just a country issue, it is

a problem that all of us face, and all of us have to get involved.

I think we can show our willingness to do this by having a bigger budget for education and health and also by strengthening institutions such as ministries for labour.

Mr ADYANTHAYA (*Worker, India*)

IPEC and ACTRAV can help national trade union centres as a focal point for eliminating child labour by having more training programmes, so that they can help national trade union centres not only to just engage in policy work but also to do outreach at the grass-roots level – as a matter of fact, these have been my practical experiences in my own State.

IPEC, along with the Italian donor project, has started a project with a fantastic success rate and, because of that, the trade unions could reach out to the village level and organize the villagers and could form cooperative societies. Through that they can augment their living standard. So this was our practical experience.

Original Arabic: Mr EL-SOODANI (*Government, Iraq*)

Thanks to this meeting here this morning, we have heard a great deal about poverty and shortcomings in terms of social protection, and also about the various programmes being put in place to promote employment in the wider context of the shortage of decent work.

The existence of child labour is the tip of the iceberg as regards the economic crisis. The economic and financial crisis has caused tremendous difficulties, which makes it particularly hard to reach the goal we have set ourselves for 2016, namely the complete elimination of child labour.

In taking the floor this morning, I would like to recall the 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the aim of which was to promote ratification of the eight fundamental Conventions. The Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), have been ratified by my country, and the Government has put in place a programme for the protection of children. That programme has had an impact on a number of national policies formulated since the adoption of those Conventions, despite the many difficulties we currently face.

The 1998 Declaration deals specifically with child labour and the elimination of child labour, which are the focus of this meeting. The 1998 Declaration is supplemented by the 2008 Declaration on Social Justice and a Fair Globalization. How can we achieve a fair and equitable globalization and simultaneously combat child labour in the current difficult economic climate?

Ms SPILMAN (*Representative of Kids Taskforce, United Kingdom*)

I am from a non-governmental organization in the United Kingdom. We are in Geneva this week to share with the ILO our work in adapting the SCREAM education pack, an ILO social mobilization tool that supports children's rights to education, the arts and the media. We have adapted this pack to fit perfectly with the UK school curriculum and have worked to support its implementation in schools. We believe this work is unique. How can we be reassured that other countries will follow our example to adapt the SCREAM programme to their

individual needs and use its potential to reach every child?

Mr KOMAR (*Government, Indonesia*)

As rightly pointed out by the panellist from Indonesia, in Indonesia we currently have hundreds, almost 500, implementing agencies throughout the country to ensure comprehensive implementation of Indonesia's national action plan against the worst forms of child labour. This is understandable as Indonesia is an archipelagic country, consisting of more than 17,000 islands. In this regard, I would like to ask the panellists whether they have some best practice, taking into account the archipelagic nature of our country, and whether they have some ideas. I would like to invite them to put themselves in our shoes.

Mr PARKHOUSE (*Employer, Namibia*)

You could call it the boondocks, we call it the bush.

If one looks at this project that we have envisaged, with Indonesia they could do it with boats. They could travel from island to island. In our country we have a mobile AIDS testing programme. These vehicles are painted beautiful colours; they play music when they drive around the towns. You could do the same thing. You paint the vehicles. You paint the boats. Flags, music: these are the sorts of thing that attract people. If you do this, if you use this type of approach – I know you have a problem with language, so have we – but you could find the people around there.

What I am going to do, and this is a promise to my Minister who is sitting over there, is try to get my business community on board with this. We do not have a problem with global supply chains. We do not really have supply chains in our country. But we can get the employers to get out there, to sponsor the vehicles, sponsor the equipment and this type of thing and that is what I would suggest for Indonesia. The same as for us.

Original Portuguese: Mr PEREIRA MAGALHAES (*Worker, Brazil*)

My country has ratified the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), and the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and we have been working to eliminate child labour, which unfortunately still exists in some places, in particular among children aged 13–15.

For families, the money the children earn is an extra wage. No one here has talked about wages yet. A guaranteed minimum wage is needed if we are going to combat child labour. It is essential if we are going to eradicate child labour.

Original Portuguese: Ms DE CARVALHO FRANCISCO (*Worker, Angola*)

I share the opinion of Mr Pereira. I think that the better the living standards of the parents, then the more dignified the life of the child. So, wages, to a certain extent, are linked to this question of child labour. They are a factor that influence it.

In my country for example, most children that are working come from poor families, so there is a direct relationship between poverty and child labour in Angola.

It is different for middle-class families, as they have more resources and their children go to school. Most victims are orphans and as we have had a lot of war, there are many widowed women who have

children, and they need their children to help the family earn money for food.

If people earn good wages, they do not need their children to work. I think decent wages are directly related to the situation of child labour.

All the social partners, workers, employers and governments, should unite to combat this scourge that is affecting the world. I do believe, as was said in the report, that child labour must be eliminated by 2016.

Original Spanish: Ms VELÁSQUEZ DE AVILÉS (*Minister of Labour and Social Security, El Salvador*)

One way of combating child labour as is stated in the road map, is to combat poverty. This must focus, of course, on the family, so that women can improve their working conditions and thereby reduce inequality and inequity for both women and men. I think all of this would help to improve the situation.

Child labour must be discouraged, not encouraged through decent salaries for adults, and children must have more education within their overall upbringing. Children must enjoy a proper childhood, with study, play and recreation to channel all their energy in constructive ways. This will also reduce problems of youth violence and gangs. We must act together to tackle this crisis. It is a major problem that the ILO has been highlighting for many years now, so we must make efforts to strengthen the family, improve minimum wages and ensure decent wage levels in order to prevent families sending their children out to work too soon into child labour, which risks exposing them to street culture. They must be given the opportunity to grow up properly.

In response to your question, I think we must work on this issue with local authorities and town halls because they are, of course, much closer to the people, much closer to the problem. In El Salvador we are working with our municipalities, always with the help of the ILO.

Eradicating child labour is our responsibility. It is a programme that we have in place. We have another initiative called "If you're working, you aren't studying; if you aren't studying, El Salvador can't grow. The State and you and I must change this reality together". We are trying to motivate and involve people in efforts to make everyone aware of this major worldwide problem.

The MODERATOR

You took up a point which I think we often miss which is the role of women. It is said that if you educate a man, you educate a man; if you educate a woman, you educate a whole family and a nation. In fact, probably one of the things we are now looking at is that you cannot tackle child labour just through one ministry. It has to be a dialogue among all ministries and all the social partners, local municipalities.

Mr JAVED (*Employer, Pakistan*)

You are quite right. Social dialogue is essential and there have been some excellent questions from the floor. But it becomes overstretched in highly populated countries like Indonesia, where there are so many islands.

Previously, we were concentrating on raising awareness among the masses, but we realized that it was the parliamentarians that were in need of awareness. In the last few years, even in Pakistan we have been working with elected representatives

at the district, provincial and the national levels, all the way up to the parliament level, and we have found that their sensitization has resulted in a much improved delivery system. There is no question about it, nobody can really deny that better salaries and decent work certainly would reduce child labour. We have to increase the resources of households. If we are able to do that, families will start sending their children into education. Also, the case of Indonesia in particular has shown how useful religious institutions can be because in our countries the public listens to religious leaders. We really have to make use of this resource. If we are able to do that, then we will be able to eliminate many other problems as well.

Original Spanish: Mr HUIZA CISNEROS (Worker, El Salvador)

I would like particularly to address our Labour Minister in my remarks. I welcome the fact that she has just called on the workers and employers to act. As a Workers' representative, I would like to say that we are totally committed to this campaign to eradicate child labour. Our Government is truly committed to the task of eradicating child labour.

I would particularly like to refer to the comments made by my colleague from Brazil, who said that with decent pay, namely better pay, families would have better opportunities to raise their children, and they would not have to send them out to work. And I think we have to raise awareness among parents. We have to make it clear to them in order to ensure that the children go to school. I think that the workers are certainly committed to this task. We also support the idea, or rather the real task, of eradicating child labour. This is quite a difficult task in our country.

We know that we are currently in the grip of an economic crisis. However, we have to really think laterally, and we have to come up with some good ideas so that we can get children out of the crisis, release them from child labour and make sure that they go to school.

Original Arabic: Mr FAYAD (Government, Lebanon)

I would remind you that Lebanon is one of the countries that has ratified both the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).

We are amending our labour legislation, so that it is in conformity with these two Conventions. We have also fixed the legal working age and wages, and everything to do with child labour.

What I would like to say is that child labour is due to poverty, or to lack of compulsory education, whether in Lebanon or in most other countries of the world. So it is up to the ILO and other organizations dealing with these matters to combat, first of all, poverty, so as to get rid of this scourge of child labour. Thank you.

The MODERATOR

I do not think the ILO has the capability to bring free education everywhere, save the children, bring food to the table, but together with the ILO, yes, I am sure we can make a change.

Original Spanish: Mr CASTRO GARZA (Employer, Mexico)

In terms of consensus between the three sectors, our experience in Mexico has been that we have made achievements by following different pathways that all led to the same goal. Government, trade un-

ions and employers have all been working to improve society.

Let us look at the different cultures and backgrounds represented here, and consider what Napoleon said, even if I do not entirely agree with it. He said, "To win a war you have to have three things: money, money and more money." Now, I do not entirely agree with Napoleon, and I will tell you why: we have seen a lot of multinational enterprises making considerable efforts to fulfil their social responsibility. Many activities were being carried out with the aim of eradicating child labour, and all of us are really trying to achieve that. Although we have seen a number of examples of companies that actually shoulder their civil responsibility, which should be encouraged, and would like to ask the panellists what experience they can share with us that we can put into effect quickly, bearing in mind our different cultures, and also the different levels of affluence on this planet, so that we can truly abolish child labour.

Mr DONNER (Minister of Social Affairs and Employment, Netherlands)

That was also the experience of the Hague Conference. There is not really just one approach, one message, which is a fast solution, because it will differ from country to country. For example, the question was raised here on free access to education, which exists in India, but there they added the solution of providing one more meal per day in schools, and that motivated children to go there because then they have the alternative to working. But it depends on the country and I think the same as is said with the example of Namibia, that different countries require different solutions. But it is, and this was also stressed by all the representatives, a coordinated effort involving education, fighting poverty and providing social security in different measures.

Original Russian: Mr SAIDOV (Government, Uzbekistan)

Mr Donner talked about The Hague Conference and, when he spoke about child labour, he said that there is the final goal, there are the future goals and the present goals. The elimination of the worst forms of child labour is the immediate goal. This is our road map. The strategic goal is the elimination of all child labour.

In its international labour standards, the ILO does not completely prohibit child labour. There are Conventions under which they can work as long as they receive education, it does not harm their health and they agree to it.

Uzbekistan has signed up to Conventions Nos 138 and 182, and we support the appeal for universal ratification of those Conventions. Following our ratification, the State adopted a national action plan to implement the Conventions, and that is important.

Another important aspect of combating child labour is the involvement of civil society organizations, NGOs and the media. Without the media and other means of communication, we cannot get over the urgency of eliminating child labour. We also have to involve the children themselves in combating the worst forms of child labour. This is how we can raise the awareness of everyone of the problem and the urgency of it. We have to link the implementation of the ILO Conventions to the implemen-

tation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two additional Protocols.

What should we not do in our efforts to combat child labour? Not have a narrow approach to Convention No. 182, by applying some parts of it and not others. And, second, we should avoid any excessive politicization in the application of these provisions. We should study the experience of all countries in combating child labour, as every country has its own particular features, and we need to take those into account.

Ms NAEEM (*United Kingdom*)

I am actively involved in raising awareness of child labour in the United Kingdom. Can members of the panel tell us if and how their governments have tried to involve children and young people as partners in reaching the 2016 goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour?

Original French: Mr GUIRIEOLLOU (Minister of the Civil Service and Employment, Côte d'Ivoire)

It is such a complex issue, this battle against child labour, that only all our experiences pulled together will allow us to reach our objectives. Education has been mentioned as an important part. I think we need to emphasize education and we certainly do this in Côte d'Ivoire. We have to remove all the obstacles standing in the way of keeping children at school. Free schooling is one option which we are also exploring in Côte d'Ivoire. The Government can, for example, make available school textbooks free of charge as one measure. We have put an end to compulsory school uniforms because that was preventing some families from sending their children to school, as they could not afford the uniform. We have also mentioned income levels, wages and salaries. We have to promote job creation and we have got many projects going to create employment. Not just create jobs, but ensure that they remain there, that they are preserved. Together with the employers and trade unions, we have come to the conclusion that not only must we create jobs and make sure that they are lasting jobs, but also ensure that adequate levels of income are provided to workers so the minimum wage is being raised. That is part of promoting employment.

How does one mobilize young people in this struggle to combat child labour? I mentioned that we have set up committees in different villages and communities in my country, and often it is young people who are the drivers. They are members of these committees, they reach out to parents and explain to parents how important it is not to send their children to work in the fields, but rather let them go to school. These committees exist at village level and most of the members of these committees are young people, who play a key role.

Mr ADYANTHAYA (*Worker, India*)

Indeed, not only the trade unions but also good non-governmental organizations in coordination, can very well facilitate delivery. If you work well with former child workers who were taken out of child labour it can have dramatic results for raising social awareness in the villages. Along with that, as the earlier speaker said, the media can also play a very vital role. In my own country, for instance, famous Bollywood actors and famous cricketers can etch into the psyche that it is a social sin to engage in child labour, so as to strike at and blunt the demand. At the same time, governments as well as

social actors can play a role. In my own country, for instance, we are running the biggest kitchen in the world, where, at the same time as a good quality midday meal, the Government is giving free textbooks, free education and free school uniforms. All this can deliver very good results.

Original Spanish: Ms VELÁSQUEZ DE AVILÉS (Minister of Labour and Social Security, El Salvador)

The problem is global, and the solution must be global, too. I think the problem of eliminating child labour is not just a legal and parliamentary issue, but one of political will and, of course, financial resources. Brazil, for example, has been mobilizing society, creating an extraordinary social awareness that has made it possible to resolve some of the major problems of Brazilian children, thanks to the participation of the universities, the unions, the media and, of course, the application of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. But there is something that we should not overlook – and I say this for Latin America, where over 60 per cent of mothers are single mothers. The solution to the problem also has to be seen from the standpoint of sex. We have to improve the conditions in which women are coming on to the job market.

In my country, 60 per cent of women are working in the informal sector, while often also bringing up their children on their own. It is therefore the joint responsibility of employers, workers and government to help these women see how they best combine their family responsibilities with a decent job, in their pursuit of a better life for themselves and for their children.

Original Spanish: Ms FLÉREZ (Worker, Columbia)

I am from the Workers' Confederation of Colombia, and I would like to congratulate all the panelists on their excellent presentations, which have touched on some very important issues — inter alia, the fact that we workers and trade unions should also be involved. And I can say that the WFTU, the Trade Union International Confederation of the Americas and all our confederations are tackling child labour very seriously.

Colombia has ratified the Convention and we have been working through IPEC, which has set up a committee involving many government, employers' and trade union organizations and NGOs. The position of the workers has always been to raise some very important points: the right to a decent job, the creation of employment, the right of freedom of association, and also of course the situation of women workers, head of households who are employed in domestic work who in Columbia are not allowed to join trade unions. This is not because the Convention has not been ratified, but simply because today it is difficult for women in the informal sector, in the agricultural sector and in many enterprises to join a union. But at both the national and the international level we are committed to the issue of child labour. We need more programmes and campaigns on the subject. What we want is for both boys and girls to be able to go to school and to university. And then of course we need a commitment from everybody, not just the workers, but the Government and employers and the whole population as well.

Original Portuguese: Mr N'ZAU (Employer, Angola)

First of all, I would like to endorse all that has been said by my colleague representing the workers

of Angola. It is true that in Angola there is a strong will to eliminate child labour. Unfortunately, we have a number of problems. I will take this opportunity to mention the experience of the Netherlands, and to ask the Minister about initiatives, projects or ideas that could help countries in need. We know that child labour is inextricably linked to poverty. We have various problems in that regard. Based on your experience, could you consider giving some material support or even financial support to countries most in need?

My second question, which I would like to put to the Minister from El Salvador, concerns child labour in her country, particularly domestic labour. If I have understood correctly, she suggested invading the privacy of people in their homes by going in to check whether they were using child labour. I do not know if the law in El Salvador would allow you to do this, but if that were the case, it would be a good initiative, and one which could be used in other countries.

Mr DONNER (*Minister of Social Affairs and Employment, Netherlands*)

The Netherlands, during The Hague conference, committed itself to making additional sums available to the IPEC programme. We have a very extensive development programme but often channel money by way of multilateral organizations in order to make them more effective. It is often a question of direct funding for certain schooling and poverty programmes, but quite often these are much more effective if done in a multilateral way and, for that reason, we quite often channel the money by way of the International Labour Organization.

Original Spanish: Ms VELÁSQUEZ DE AVILÉS (Minister of Labour and Social Protection, El Salvador)

What I said was that we were very involved in combating child labour and that we are considering doing a national analysis, because domestic work is hazardous and one of the worst forms of child labour. As many women here will remember, States around the world were not doing anything about domestic violence because this was done behind closed doors and they felt that this was an area where they could not go. We became aware of the extent of violence against women, children and the elderly, who were the most vulnerable group, and the State had to get involved and legislate so that it could do something about it and really tackle domestic violence.

Our proposal is, as we see domestic service as one of the worst types of child labour, can we legislate here as well to try and regularize this? We believe that, in the area of domestic labour, where almost 90 per cent of the people working are women and girls, there is harassment, physical violence, exploitation and non-regulated working hours.

We believe it is high time that the State really started to go into those areas so that it can see what is going on, through labour inspections, so that it can regularize this work in a way that people do not feel that they are being invaded. We believe, though, that governments have a responsibility to know exactly what kind of work domestic workers and minors are doing.

States need to know that sometimes they are raped and that their fundamental rights are violated. We know that this is happening but are doing absolutely nothing about it. That is what I was suggesting.

What I want to say to you is that, to solve the problems of child labour, we cannot attack the rights acquired by the working classes. What we have to do here is involve everyone. We have to involve the government, the workers and the employers. Clearly, we do not want to sacrifice what has been gained by the working class in its struggles throughout the world.

Original Spanish: Mr LIMA GODOY (Employer, Brazil)

I was reserving this statement on behalf of the Workers' group of the Conference for this afternoon, but the last question and the answer by the distinguished Minister from El Salvador forces me now to bring up the position of the Employers, as a group.

On the subject of inspections in people's homes, going into people's family homes, we are fully aware, of course, that many irregularities and much violence is done to women and children, and people in general, within people's homes. This is a very serious problem, a human and social problem, and we are always prepared to contribute to eradicating it. But there are basic principles of human freedom, hard-won rights acquired in the course of human civilization, that have to be preserved. One of those is the principle of the inviolability of the home. This does not mean that the way is free for violence to happen there. What we have to be clear about is that state intervention in the family home, which is a sacred place, can only be done through judicial procedures.

Original Portuguese: Ms TANAKA (Worker, Brazil)

The experience of Brazil has served as an example for many countries. In Brazil, progress has been made, not towards the immediate eradication of child labour, but with the expectation of eradicating it in the future. Current efforts focused strongly on prevention and on eliminating the worst forms of child labour and adolescent labour.

We are making good progress, but we need to continue with our awareness campaigns. At this session of the Conference, here in Geneva, we have worked with unions from Haiti, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic to prepare a booklet to raise awareness, because we need to continue the work begun by Brazil so that we can make progress. We cannot cease working with other countries that are also moving forward based on their own experience. If Brazil can pass on good practices to other countries, it will do so. I will provide copies of this booklet in Spanish, in French and, for the representative of Angola, in Portuguese.

The booklet has had technical support and financial support from ACTRAV and IPEC. The ILO was the main source of technical guidance in preparing it. It has been through The Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA). It is important to point out that this booklet is intended to raise awareness of domestic child labour. It is not a plan for eradicating child labour altogether, but if we have preventative programmes, I think one day we will be able to fully eradicate child labour.

In Brazil, we meet in a national forum that brings together the Government, employers and workers. NGOs are also needed if we want a real and accurate diagnosis of the situation. Legislation prohibits the Government, employers and workers from checking certain places such as hotels, so therefore you require the police, and they are included in our

work. We also need help from those that are involved in the law, i.e. magistrates and judges, in tackling problems of justice.

This booklet, which we have brought here today, will be handed out, and I think it will give us hope that one day we will eradicate child labour. We have set ourselves the goal of eradicating child labour. So go for the goal, go for the eradication of child labour!

Original Arabic: Mr RAZZOUK (Government, Lebanon)

I would like to add a few points to what my colleague from Lebanon has already said.

The centre for statistics and the private sector has conducted a survey of a sample population of Lebanon and has concluded that there has been an increase in child labour in rural areas compared to urban centres, especially in agriculture. The Lebanese Government has taken account of the fact that measures must be taken to encourage school enrolment of these children, including exemption from school fees and the provision of school textbooks and stationery free of charge, so that families can afford to send these children from rural areas to school.

It must also be made clear to children and parents that school is not a prison. Children must be encouraged to go to school. After taking many initiatives, our Government hopes that schools will be perceived as a pleasant place to be and that this will attract children into education.

Our Educational Committee is trying to instil a sense of responsibility in children at the national and individual levels. It has introduced activities to teach children the importance of education and to give them a sense of civic responsibility.

Social workers are sent out into the families to encourage them to send their children to school and make them aware of the importance of education.

It would have been a good idea to invite ministers of education to attend this meeting, as they are ultimately responsible for the fate of these children, since it is they who draw up teaching programmes and curricula. Countries must organize awareness-raising programmes, targeted at families and parents, to encourage them to send their children to school and thus mitigate the perverse effects of child labour.

Original Spanish: Ms VÉLEZ (Employer, Colombia)

I would just like to say that we do have an agenda for ongoing collaboration with IPEC and the ILO to eradicate child labour. Colombian employers are fully committed, through their social responsibility schemes, to supporting education programmes which encourage children to attend, and stay in, school, through free access to the public network of schools.

We also have programmes to keep children in the education system that are very much in line with those mentioned by the Minister from El Salvador. The right to freedom of association, as enshrined in our constitution, is fully recognized and upheld.

Original Spanish: Ms HERNÁNDEZ OLIVA (Government, Cuba)

I have listened with great interest to everything that has been said, both by the panellists and those who have spoken from the floor, and I think this has been a very useful exercise in terms of exchanging information. There are so many different experi-

ences and situations that we do not have enough time to describe them all.

Nonetheless, even though I have asked to take part in the general discussion, I would like to make a few comments now because, at this point, much has already been said about poverty and resources as a necessary element of efforts to eradicate child labour. I think that the availability of resources is essential but there are different ways of eradicating poverty. I would like to ask the panel to provide us with some criteria. How do they think that poverty could be eradicated? Poverty has such an effect on the conditions described here and has been described as an obstacle to eradicating child labour. How can we find the resources necessary to implement a social security system which will facilitate other social measures and, of course, help us to eradicate child labour.

My country, for example, is a poor country with a low income. It has been affected by the world economic crisis and other events such as international policies and unilateral policies that very often stifle us and block our development.

Nonetheless, 100 per cent of Cuban children have access to free education which includes not only the teaching itself, but also school books and everything that a school needs. We have a health system that covers everyone, and children receive 13 vaccinations. The infant mortality rate stands at below 5.5 deaths per 1,000 live births and we have one general or specialist doctor per every 124 inhabitants. There are guaranteed jobs for parents, so that children do not have to go out to work. There are also social programmes involving the disabled so that they, too, receive protection and are included in the educational system and receive a specialist teaching. Of course, that is our very own recipe for success. Everyone has to find their own approach, but we can all find ways of distributing wealth more fairly so that children do not have to go to work and so that parents do not have to send their children out to work. I would ask the panel if they have tried to find a formula that works, but not a universal formula, as each country has to find its own method, depending on national circumstances. Each country has to give some thought as to how to eliminate poverty and how to prevent children from being sent out to work.

Original French: Mr NAPOLEON (Worker, Haiti)

In 2008 my Government ratified these two Conventions but for the time being there is no national programme to implement them. The workers of Haiti are currently working with countries such as Brazil to organize a public information campaign, as there has not yet been any effort to publicize these two Conventions. Many Haitians are not aware of the contents of these Conventions and will not understand why a national programme is needed.

I would like to ask the panellists how are we going to eliminate child labour if parents in the third world are so poor and do not have any work. What sort of strategy can one put in place to support these poor families? In Haiti, children went back to work after the earthquake. Many work in the streets, to feed their families. Some weeks ago we went to Santo Domingo to draw up a road map to help these families and reduce child labour.

Original French: Mr MAHAN (Worker, Côte d'Ivoire)

Thank you, I am a worker from Côte d'Ivoire. I have a question for the representatives of Angola, Uzbekistan and Côte d'Ivoire. Regarding Angola, I would like to ask what are you doing together with your African colleagues to put an end to what I would describe as the exploitation of young girls working in markets? They are women from western and Central Africa. They are working as porters in markets. There are many poor countries surrounding our country and these young people come from these very poor neighbouring countries and do this work. What is our Government doing to put a stop to it?

I am a member of the Standards Committee, but what we hear in the Standards Committee and what the representative of Uzbekistan has told us, well, it is night and day, completely different. How do you check on all this? It is all very well to tell us you have ratified the Convention, but then it has to be put into practice. Is it being implemented and can this be monitored and checked?

Original Arabic: Mr ABDUL RAHMAN (Worker, Bahrain)

The members of the panel have made it clear that we all need to engage in social dialogue, and we have to hold our governments to account in this matter. As far as social dialogue is concerned, we know that there are many developing countries which have decided not to engage in social dialogue, and they are not doing very well. The governments of these countries are therefore responsible for ignoring social dialogue. Is there a rational government anywhere which will combat corruption so that their country can really be a State based on the rule of law? These are important principles. Decent work must be promoted in these societies and in all the national institutions. There must be respect for trade union and human rights and democracy. This is the only way to combat child labour, forced labour and all forms of work which are not decent work. Governments play a key role in ensuring compliance with these principles.

The MODERATOR

I am going to consider three questions that seem to have gone on throughout this debate and I would like you to focus on answering: how do you eradicate poverty; how do you get the government to work with the social partners to ensure democracy and furthering the Decent Work Agenda; and what is your experience in eradicating child labour that can be universally tried out and is there South-South cooperation? In particular, I think there was an issue for our African colleagues about migrant young women working in market trade. Is there something that can be done for that?

Original Spanish: Ms VELÁSQUEZ DE ALVILÉS (Minister of Labour and Social Protection, El Salvador)

I entirely agree that poverty is one of the reasons for so many children working so young. I also agree that there have to be structural reforms undertaken by government, but that is where we have a problem if there is no social dialogue. People talk about structural reform and about changing the tax system, which could be used to try and combat this scourge, but people never reach agreement.

A real way of fighting poverty would be tax reform and fair distribution of income through structural reform. But what we need is a certain amount

of boldness here. We need sufficient social support and strength to make those changes.

When it comes to jobs, it strikes me that we have to protect jobs. We have to create new jobs but we also need social dialogue to do that. This has to be decent work, work that respects human dignity. That is absolutely key in my opinion.

In El Salvador, despite the high levels of poverty that we have, we are certainly taking some very definite steps towards eradicating the worst forms of child labour, and we are doing this because there is a political will and a very deep ethical commitment to do so.

Mr JAVED (Employer, Pakistan)

In my country we are trying to resolve this issue through more and more public-private partnerships, because we have found employers to be willing and we have been thinking about how to combat child labour.

We decided that orphans would qualify for unlimited support for education and training. So the employers in Pakistan, with the collaboration of the Government, have founded skill development councils. I am the Chairman of one of these skill development councils. Anybody who is an orphan and can prove it with the relevant documents will receive free education and skill development.

Secondly, to the widows. We have initiated a programme as part of which they are entitled to six month's vocational training. It is completely paid and, at the end of their training, they receive a small sum of money to create their own SMEs. This is going very well, even though it is at the micro level, and we are asking entrepreneurs to replicate it and we are getting some good results.

There was a very interesting question about involvement of the workers. We have appointed consultants for worker-employer relations. And we have discovered that 80 or 90 per cent of problems can be resolved through constructive dialogue. We go to the Government, the third constituent, for the further disputed 20 per cent and we involve social dialogue and we are finding it very easy if we involve NGOs and civil society.

Ms HANARTANI (Government, Indonesia)

I think we have the same experience as our colleague from Pakistan, as well as from other countries. It is mostly how to approach this, how to eradicate child labour. A job is the most important thing, so with jobs we can move towards poverty eradication. So, now our country is prioritizing the development of a good climate of investment. So hopefully, if we build a good climate for investment, we can create more jobs. Then, parents can stay in the workforce and do not have to take their children out of school. As well as creating a good climate for investment, we also tried to reach the grassroots level with a conditional cash transfer. That is why, at the beginning, I mentioned that it is very important to have ownership of each programme, so everybody feels responsible for the results of those programmes.

Original Portuguese: Ms DE CARVALHO FRANCISCO (Worker, Angola)

In reply to the question that was asked by my worker colleague, I would like to say that the National Union of Angolan Workers – Trade Union Confederation, since 2000, has set up a national confederation that defends workers in the informal

sector. As a trade union movement we should, with the Government, fight for the best possible conditions for labour in general. But whether in the informal sector or the formal sector, of course it is not the responsibility of the unions, but also the responsibility of governments and States.

Conditions should be created for a better distribution of wealth. We should demand that the conditions be created for every citizen to be able to live in dignity. As regards children, as I said, in my country the conditions are being put in place – and I think they will gradually improve – and education will be free until the sixth grade. We have meals for school children, books are also provided free of charge and, as I said, a number of Conventions have been signed, but that is not enough. We have to create jobs, we have to have decent wages, and a whole set of conditions are necessary so that society as a whole can change.

The tripartite movement, the governments, employers and workers should be able to sit down and discuss these matters and become aware of the fact that we need to change. We have to move from mere words to action, but all committed to the same goal.

Mr DONNER (*Minister of Social Affairs and Employment, Netherlands*)

In answer to the question of whether there is a formula to fight child labour, I think that what we have really tried to do with the Road map for achieving the elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016 is not to provide a formula

that can be applied everywhere in the world in a uniform way, but to indicate the different actions and interactions that are important, and eradicating poverty is indeed among the most important. Child labour is indeed both a symptom and a cause of poverty, so you will not succeed if you first try to eradicate poverty and only then to fight child labour. You have to fight especially the worst forms of child labour in order to eradicate poverty. The aim is how to eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2016. What has been proven here and at the Hague Global Child Labour Conference is that we have the political will, the experience of potentially successful programmes and, in the Road map for achieving the elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016, a tool. But it will require further effort, which is why I think it important that the International Labour Conference and the Organization as a whole keep it on the agenda, to monitor progress and to hold another conference in Brazil on what has been achieved to date.

The MODERATOR

We have come to the end of this session. I hope that we will take the thoughts and some of the solutions and challenges from this meeting forward, so that hopefully we will come up with some concrete results of how we are going to reach our goal for 2016 of eradication of the worst forms of child labour.

(The Conference adjourned at 1.15 p.m.)

Sixth sitting

Friday, 11 June 2010, 3.15 p.m.

Presidents: Mr Nakajima and Mr Nkili

GLOBAL REPORT UNDER THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE ILO DECLARATION ON FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND RIGHTS AT WORK (CONT.)

Mr LIMA GODOY (*Employer, Brazil*)

The discussion of this Global Report gives the Employers' group at this session of the Conference a special opportunity to reaffirm, before an assembly of the highest world class, its solemn commitment to the fight against child labour in its worst forms.

My words would be in vain if they were not grounded in the actions that employers from all regions of the world, as companies and as citizens, have already developed, especially over the last decade, to help eradicate this pernicious phenomenon. Unfortunately, it is still present, mostly in informal sectors of the economy in less-developed regions. To mobilize themselves toward the goal established by the ILO for the year 2016, employers are acting in accordance with the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. It is worth remembering that the Employers' group was an enthusiastic participant and protagonist in the adoption of the Declaration in 1998. A child's place is not at work. The Global Child Labour Conference which the Netherlands Government promoted jointly with the ILO in The Hague in May 2010, reiterated this affirmation that no one denies. In a society ruled by political correctness, we constantly hear that children's time should be divided between toys and school – the only adequate way to prepare them for life to benefit themselves and society as a whole.

Nevertheless, as we are informed by the esteemed Director-General of the ILO, Juan Somavia, in the preface to the Report under discussion, the reality is quite different from the general discourse. I quote "... some 215 million children across the world are still trapped in child labour".

In any case, any doubts raised as to the accuracy of these figures would be far from being able to reduce our repulsion against an undeniable situation that is completely opposed to the fundamental rights of children.

However, what seems to be a universal consensus breaks down into two streams when it comes to defining what should be condemned as child labour. On one side, there are those who radically abhor any form of occupation outside the playful and educational; on the other, there are those who venture

to say that, in some contexts, employing children may have positive aspects.

If the position of the former is undeniable, idealistically speaking, the arguments of the latter deserve to be considered before a swift condemnation. The International Organisation of Employers (IOE) considers that, through properly adapted work, children can acquire skills that will help prepare them for adult life, assimilating the ethic of work; can contribute to family income, which is a tough need in the case of very poor families; and can move away from crime, to which they are driven when kept in idleness with no options for educational activities. At the same time, the IOE emphasizes that any activity that threatens the health, morals or future development of children and adolescents is absolutely excluded from potentially positive forms of child labour.

Unfortunately, both ends of the spectrum – those activities that can be beneficial, on one side, and those that are certainly harmful, on the other – have usually been referred to as child labour, generating conceptual confusion in discussion at the national and international levels and inhibiting greater involvement in actions against the abuse of children and adolescents, hence the urgent necessity of observing the distinction between the "worst forms of child labour" and "other forms of children at work", as established in Convention No. 182, which defines two groups of worst forms of child labour: the first includes activities defined as crime in most jurisdictions, including slavery, trafficking, debt, bondage, forced labour, prostitution, pornography, production and/or trafficking of drugs, and any other illegal activities; the second covers activities which, by their nature or the circumstances in which they occur, are likely to endanger the health and safety of children, as well as causing moral harm.

The concept of "other forms of child labour" covers activities, whether paid or unpaid, that do not fit into any category of worst forms of child labour and are beneficial or appropriate for the development of children – including for example, apprenticeship – and are even compatible with national legislation, including working conditions and educational requirements.

For all those reasons, we hope that events such as the Global Conference that I mentioned before – the impeccable organization of which has to be recognized, and for which we should thank the Netherlands Government, particularly the Honourable Minister Donner who presided at the Conference –

and the current discussion of the Global Report will continue to provide opportunities to clarify this distinction, which is certainly one of the obstacles to mobilizing sufficient resources to make it more probable that we will attain the goal of completely eradicating the worst forms of child labour by 2016.

In conclusion, we would like to say that the Employers' group in this Conference is of the view that the road map adopted at the Hague Conference should be taken into account by the ILO's Governing Body, along with the future directions identified in the Global Report: strengthening activities in the areas of universal primary education, basic social protection and, in particular, the promotion of opportunities for productive employment for parents, with a view to giving them ways and means to support and bring up their children in dignity, without having to subject them to any kind of shameful work.

In fact, this last field is certainly the most important in terms of the contribution of employers, given their primary function as the driving force of the economy, the creators of employment and of prosperity, without which even the best conceived public policies would not be able to put an end to situations of poverty, which is where the worst forms of child labour flourish.

During the discussions this morning it became clear that eradicating poverty is at the root of solving the problem of child labour, so it is essential that governments make every effort to create an appropriate environment for the creation and development of sustainable enterprises, which is without doubt the only proven and effective way of creating jobs and getting workers and their children out of poverty. If we want decent work for mothers and fathers and a childhood free of undignified work, we should hold fast to the ideal of decent work, supported by sustainable enterprises.

Finally, on behalf of the Employers, I would like to thank all of those who are working to eradicate the worst form of child labour. Governments, workers and also NGOs that do serious work under the coordination of the ILO and its tripartite governance, and I wish them all possible success in achieving the objective that has been set for the year 2016. If we can do that, we will be giving the boys and girls of the whole world their just rights. More than that, we will also be making it possible for young people to prepare better for their own future life. We will be offering them an opportunity to construct a better world than the one that they inherit which is so full of inequality, injustice and violence.

Mr TROTMAN (*Worker, Barbados*)

The last time we dealt with the Global Report in this room, we had the privilege and opportunity to hear from the Employers' benches the presentation which Mr Ashraf Tabani had been making for, and on behalf of, the Employers. The Workers' group regrets very much his passing and, because of the significant work that he did at the front line of the Employers' benches, we just need to remember with fondness his great contribution to the International Labour Conference and to the Governing Body of the ILO.

We wish, in looking at this year's discussions, to congratulate the Panel for its presentation earlier today. The presentations from everyone were, in our view, very sound and to the point, the Moderator was able to stimulate significant interactivity, and

we think that the ILO has, in fact, done what we have been trying to do for many years: it achieved a high level of interactive debate. It did not deal with the Report itself, but it dealt with the subject and that is equally important. I shall have some words later on to say regarding the road map, which was part of this morning's discussion, and I trust you will permit them at this point.

The Report before us seeks to mention the level of change which there has been, and you would note that that level of change between 2004 and 2008 indicates a 3 per cent reduction in child labour worldwide. There are specifics that are covered but this is, by and large, the message that has come to us and I believe that in this room we must all share a sense of sadness because the donors are pumping significant amounts of money into the exercise of eliminating child labour. The Workers stand ready when they are able and work together with the agencies that are working here to do what they can. The Employers have always been committed, when we have met with them and discussed this, to have joint programmes to treat the matter. And yet with all the goodwill that there is, rather than being able to say that we have made progress towards the fulfilment of the objective of eliminating child labour by the year 2016, we would have to say that we are falling behind in the race. That does not mean that we cannot get back on target, but we would have to recognize among ourselves that substantial progress may not be the most important thing for us in terms of the numbers in some areas. It might be more important for us to examine what we are doing and to examine how we are doing it, to see whether there are not new approaches that we may have to take on board. If we are not achieving the targets we set ourselves, should we not have parties that are interested in this, maybe in the IPEC meeting in November, to look at whether we have to change our policy, our approach, our method of operations, because, while we are quite satisfied that the people in the field are all doing a tremendous job, it may be that there is a "stop-start" arrangement, there may be difficulty in the fact that much of the work is being done on a project-by-project basis, it may be that we will have to put our heads together checking with the various helpers, the various parties that are coming together to be able to help us, and seeing the extent to which we may be able to rely more fully on the social partners, because I would imagine that in most of the countries concerned the employers' organizations will not say no to a call that could be made to them to get even more fully involved in the child labour campaign and to assist IPEC in that regard, nor can I think of anybody in the trade union movement who would not want to do this to an even greater extent. It is true that there are non-governmental organizations that have done an excellent job and we would not want to deny this, but IPEC now will have to look again at the way it is approaching its work and, if it has not been doing so, it has to make the trade union movement and the employers' organizations the first port of call.

We are going to have to recognize that, if enough work is not being done, it may very well be that there has to be further, fuller, more frank discussions, which are recorded and which will set out – I do not want to overuse the word "road map" – courses of action that the social partners might be able, in consultation with others, to deal with. I

would think that, if we are able to do and deal with that effectively, we may be able to find ourselves having a faster rate of elimination so that we can meet the 2016 goal that has been set for us.

Now one of the problems that we constantly have to bear in mind is that, if all the social partners are working together with the governments and are able to benefit from the IPEC relationship, we may be able to tackle what might be a lacuna in the arrangement, and that lacuna may be that there is no enabling legislation in enough of the countries, even though we may have a very large number of ratifications which is fine as far as it goes. We may have to go the route of enabling legislation and regulations because, as we have found, if the law is absent, then child labour will naturally flourish. We have to be able to recognize that we must make it difficult for the beast, child labour, to feed. If there is no law and order, the something on which it feeds will be lawlessness and lack of order. It would seem to me very important, therefore, that trade unions need to be present, law has to be present, the employers have to be taken more fully into the market, and these together need to be made very much a part of the arrangements that are set if we are going to reduce and to remove child labour.

So my thoughts here are that we have to look again at what measures we can use beyond the tried measure of projects. I do not wish to say the failed measure of projects, because it would be highly improper for me to judge projects when we have managed to get such significant success in the past but, even though we have to refer to that success, we must still be able to recognize that what has resulted for us has been a falling behind in the schedule levels that we have set to bring us to that magic day in 2016.

It would seem to us, too, that we would have in all of this to be looking even more fully at government action as it empowers the public sector and the role that the public sector would have both in the arrangement for matters like education and in the way that governments would establish that there has to be education for all. You will bear in mind that education for all is a nice slogan but, if child labour is allowed to flourish in any community, then education is not going to be the priority for families in societies that do not have education for parents and the community as a whole. So public action has to be geared to education for all, for mothers and fathers, through to village leaders, down to the children, and that role must be recognized and treated with respect.

We have to eliminate child labour through education and we have to eliminate child labour through a social protection floor. But governments have to be involved in that and, if IPEC is going to be the steering wheel of the machinery then they may need to have the social partners, trade unions and employers, as part of the body of able-bodied persons who might, from time to time, have to help to push the vehicle, because we are going to be finding that there are potholes in the road, there are going to be bottlenecks, there are going to be all kinds of difficulties, and the vehicle is not going to proceed on a smooth tarmac road as though there were no problems. There has to be a level of support, I mean muscle, I mean soldiers who are ready to be in the fields, who give real, meaningful support to the machine and help it over difficult areas.

So I do not wish to deny the IPEC role. I merely wish to say that labour stands ready and able to give more support than is now the policy or the practice. In doing this, we have to be able to ensure that decent work for the adult is being provided. This is why we speak to the policy of governments, because the provision of decent work within a lawful community where the proper structures are put in place will go a long way towards helping us in overcoming many of the problems. Where it may appear as though the government role comes up against difficulties, we would have obviously to recognize that government policy to create decent jobs for adults cannot be achieved again without the full support of all the parties.

In this regard, we would think that IPEC is able to work with the social partners in a tripartite arrangement but also using the tripartite structure which exists in most of our communities because, if we were to use the pillar of social dialogue to get the work done in countries as IPEC moves along, I am sure that we might be able to move even more swiftly.

In that regard, I would not wish us to forget that in parallel we are now also discussing domestic workers and seeking to adopt a Convention for them. Nor would we want to forget that millions of people who constitute that body of workers referred to as domestic workers are children, who are included in this broader body for whom we are seeking to have a working instrument that would remove that particular lacuna in our system of building greater development.

So there has to be, I think, a greater understanding by us of the difficulties that exist, in the same way that there has to be a greater understanding that sectorally our percentage figures are going to go up and down, as the case may be, and that where those figures are not showing consistency we will need to be even more conscious than we are now of the particular responsibility that there is for all of us to look at the sectors and help obtain the help of the social partners. I speak particularly now of the help of the trade union movement in being the first point of reference in getting this exercise across.

While we are still speaking about the governments' action, we would wish to see greater focus on reinforcing national legislation and then ensuring enforcement of that legislation. We would wish to see a greater policy for free, compulsory, high-quality education for children as well as their adequate skills development – I spoke earlier about the education of adults and I am coming back to children. If we were able to do that at the same time that we referred to the social protection floor, which we dealt with just a moment earlier, and with there being some further form of working to the creation of decent work, then we might be able to make even greater progress.

We want to believe that we can do even greater work if we move towards having some greater networking with IPEC and the trade union movement as we endeavour to have non-governmental organizations conduct their work. We want to see those of us in the trade union movement involved in networking, in advocacy and in promotion to a level beyond where we have gone up to now, because we must bear in mind that some of our work might look good in some areas and we might be able to have some short-term results if we only deal with the issues from the point of view of projects but, if we are

able to have long-term work that is done systematically, examined and followed through, we might be in a better position when we review the matter later. We may then be in a better position to see that we are producing even better results than we have.

We have to make the point that poverty is part of the exercise, but I would not wish us to allow ourselves to be misled into thinking that it is only poverty that is the question before us. There are many areas where there are very poor people but where society will never tolerate child labour, and there are many other areas where we are in the midst of wealth and yet right next door, on our doorsteps, we have child labour, which cannot be attributed to poverty. It may be put down to the poverty of the child, and we have to be able to look at such contradictions in society and be able to make it understood that it ought to be the responsibility of the total community, and that we ought not to be living with poverty in the midst of great pockets of wealth. We should be able to build better communities.

We said earlier that we would want to have a situation where we could look at the road map. We think that the road map sets down very practical areas for moving towards that elimination. We think it speaks to the use of the social partners and the involvement of labour. The question really that was left with us earlier was the question as to how we would set about treating it.

Our group, the Workers' group, is of the view that time ought to be available, even during the next Governing Body meeting, in an unofficial capacity, where our Dutch colleagues ought to be able, with the agreement of the social partners in the Governing Body and the governments, to make a presentation.

We are of the view that the goodwill which was extended there is something to which we should open our arms and make sure that we are in a better position to embrace whatever new programme they come up with. We ought to be able to tell them in this new programme that we want to see a greater role for ACTRAV and, indeed, for ACT/EMP and for the trade union movement in the field, either directly or, as I much prefer, using ACTRAV.

I would like to finally suggest that in November we ought to be able to have a fuller discussion at the level of the Governing Body, in which we are able to put together a programme that shows we are able to address the issues which we have touched upon, albeit briefly, as those issues which need to come forward to make sure that the social partners within the ILO are not marginalized; to make sure that we use all the available resources to make the IPEC programme go even faster than it is going; to make sure that we are in a position to stimulate many of those IPEC employees by giving them permanent contracts, or contracts which are not as precarious as they now are; and to make sure that we are able to effectively realize our objective of elimination by 2016.

Original Arabic: Mr AL-AFASI AL-MUTAIRI (Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, Kuwait)

It is my pleasure to greet this august assembly and to address you on behalf of the Ministers of Labour of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) which comprises the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar, the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Yemen.

I would like to express our great appreciation to the Director-General of the International Labour Office, for preparing the Global Report, which focuses on the third of the fundamental principles and rights at work, namely the elimination of child labour, and is entitled *Accelerating action against child labour*, which aims to achieve the objective of eliminating child labour by the year 2016, in a world that is free from war, conflict and oppression, which often lead to large numbers of children being forced into labour. We reiterate our common will to reduce poverty and to achieve education for all.

It is right to pay tribute to our venerable Organization, which has taken the initiative of eliminating child labour and which, through its Conventions and its efforts, has developed an international programme in which a large number of countries participate. Our Conference, at its 95th Session, adopted a global action plan to coordinate efforts in order to eliminate child labour in all the regions of the world. Thanks be to God, these efforts have been successful, since child labour has become one of the priority issues in the forums, institutions and organizations that deal with such matters, and has garnered media support to raise awareness of the risks that child labour entails for development and for future generations. The results achieved are thus: since the two Global Reports on child labour of 2002 and 2006, the number of working children has been reduced over the years 2004–08 by an average of 10 per cent for the 5–14 age group, while the number of children in danger of being involved in child labour has also dropped by 30.8 per cent, as indicated in the Report.

Our States, based on the values anchored in our social and moral systems and our national legislation, and the tolerance of Islamic religious teaching, and by the heritage of our great human civilization, have adopted policies and programmes to protect children against marginalization, abuse and exploitation. We have assisted families and strengthened their role and protection against vulnerability, providing them with rights, guarantees and services so that their children can be given a proper upbringing. This is done through improving the standard of living and giving children an opportunity to develop their potential skills and abilities, so that they can grow into citizens raised with freedom of choice.

Our member States protect children and grant them rights in accordance with the basis of international standards. They have acceded to the international Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the United Nations, and they have all ratified ILO Convention No. 182. As a result of those policies and efforts, our countries have rid themselves of these worst cases of child labour or situations of exploitation, based on our values and morals, and on international conventions.

These policies and programmes have strengthened an integrated set of progressive legislation, in order to fill any possible gaps to make sure a child does not fall into deprivation and poverty. Our legislation forbids child labour and guarantees basic education and social security systems are in place which protect heads of households and the family in the event of old age, illness, incapacity, orphanhood or widowhood. The legislation penalizes any malicious acts against children affecting their physical, moral or psychological integrity. Children are guaranteed the right to the highest level of health care, educa-

tion, social protection and a decent life, and to protection against exploitation and abuse.

The legislation of member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council has established detailed provisions governing the work of adolescents, and we have agreed on amendments bringing our labour laws and regulations into conformity with international conventions on the age of admission to employment and on the prohibition of the worst forms of child labour.

We are convinced that this action has to be continued in order to face the global challenges ahead, achieve a better standard and prepare for a future full of opportunities, especially in the context of the global financial and economic crisis. The future orientations set out in the Global Report, namely confirming and enlarging access to universal basic education, building a basic social protection floor and promoting productive employment opportunities, have been adopted by our countries for many years now. We have also strengthened assistance to child protection in order to develop their innovative capacities, their social integration, human awareness, sense of being citizens of the world and fostering a spirit of tolerance, rejecting intolerance, division and violence. This can only be done as a joint effort, with all the necessary resources being made available, as well as technical assistance granted from the ILO and other specialized agencies.

The global action plan that was adopted in 2006 and the road map proposed in this Global Report, which is aimed at ensuring the total elimination of child labour by 2016 conceives the aspiration of strengthening the capacity of States; enhancing social dialogue and stepping up the international movement to eliminate child labour, viewing children as an investment in development; strengthening international solidarity and promoting the principles of human rights, inspired by a spirit of love, goodness and peace, inherent in human civilisations and advocated by the major religions, including Islam, which is aimed at human happiness and goodness.

When the world as a whole decides to safeguard children's lives and dignity, this leads us to join our efforts to ensure the protection of all children worldwide. We support the efforts of the ILO to help developing countries that are unable to meet all the development needs of their peoples in order to protect children and to eliminate all forms of child labour. We agree with the view of the Director-General when he says that the world cannot grow weary of the cause when 215 million children are losing their childhood and the chance of a better future.

Let us work together in order to rekindle the light of hope and end the worst forms of child labour, by ensuring peace, stability, development and dignity for all peoples and nations without exception. Let us work to ensure that children are no longer victims of labour.

Original Spanish: Mr GARRIGUES FLÓRES (Government, Spain)

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the European Union, as well as Turkey, Croatia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the countries of the stabilization process and potential candidates, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the EFTA countries, Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area,

and also Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Armenia.

I would like to start by congratulating the Office on its detailed Report, which addresses the political concern relating to the fight against child labour. This is a very timely discussion as it comes on the eve of the International Day against Child Labour on 12 June.

The European Union would like to express its deep concern about the fact that more than 200 million children are still victims of child labour, and more than half of these children are involved in dangerous work. We need to make faster progress towards achieving the ILO's objectives, namely the elimination of the worst forms of child labour by 2016. That need is clearly stated in the Report. The EU Member States share the view expressed in the Director-General's Report that much still remains to be done at the international, regional and national levels, and involving all the relevant players, if we wish to attain that important goal. In view of that fact, we welcome the outcome of the Global Child Labour Conference, which was held in The Hague on 11 and 12 May 2010, and in particular the road map which was adopted. This Conference was organized as a follow-up to the ILO 2006 Global Action Plan. The road map to 2016 aims to substantially increase global efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2016, and it sets out the guiding principles and priority activities for governments, workers and employers, their organizations, NGOs and civil society, as well as for international and regional organizations. At the same time, it also acknowledges the leading role played by the ILO in the fight against child labour.

The Hague Conference was the first of its kind for many years. We are pleased to hear that Brazil has announced that it will be holding a further global conference on this subject, with a view to 2016. We think that it is important to maintain our momentum, to assess progress, to share experiences and to help each other to achieve the 2016 goal. The European Union and its Member States fully support Brazil in this important undertaking.

Allow me to turn to the European Union's policy on child labour. We reaffirm the European Union's commitment to protecting and promoting the rights of the child, including the right to enjoy education and to live a life free of child labour. The efforts of the European Union and its Member States to eliminate child labour are based on a comprehensive policy approach, involving policy dialogue, combined with development cooperation and trade incentives, which need to be used effectively to contribute to the internationally agreed goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016 and, ultimately, to do away with all kinds of child labour, if these are applied in a mutually supportive manner and part of a broader policy framework that focuses on development and the eradication of poverty.

We are also aware that greater efforts can be made to attain this goal, and particularly to combat all forms of discrimination that contribute to child labour and to address the problem of dangerous work carried out by children in regions, sectors and occupations where child labour is prevalent.

The promotion of the rights of the child is an integral part of the EU's development and human rights policy. The EU guidelines for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child stress the need

to incorporate these rights into European Union policy and action. We also recall that the worst forms of child labour may constitute a form of violence against children. They affect very young children and involve very serious physical and emotional harm. We emphasize the need to make effective use of the multilateral system and of existing partnerships, whilst also acknowledging the leading role of the ILO in combating child labour.

Cooperation in the field of development by EU donors also makes a significant contribution to the prevention of child labour. We reaffirm our commitment to the two ILO core Conventions, namely Nos 138 and 182, which make a unique tripartite contribution to the fight against child labour, using tools such as trade incentives and, in particular, the GSP Plus which aims, among other things, to implement those Conventions effectively whilst promoting sustainable development. We look forward to the day when these two instruments have been universally ratified.

Let me end by saying that we will only be successful if we ambitiously follow a holistic approach based on all of these dimensions. The European Union is prepared to decisively promote this approach within the ILO as well. This holistic approach has also been successfully incorporated into the road map that was adopted in The Hague last month.

The European Union strongly supports the road map and recommends that it be placed on the agenda of the next session of the Governing Body of the ILO in November.

Original Portuguese: Ms FARANI AZEVEDO (Government, Brazil)

It is a pleasure for me to make this statement on behalf of the Government delegation of Brazil and an honour to do so alongside one of Brazil's greatest authorities in the fields of work and labour inspection, Dr Ruth Vilela. She has dedicated three decades of her life to combating child and forced labour in our country. It is an honour for us to have her with us in the Brazilian delegation.

The Brazilian Constitution sets the human person at its heart and establishes the social value of labour as a fundamental principle. These basic guidelines have steered the programmes and policies of the Brazilian Government in combating child labour.

At the beginning of the 1990s, 14 per cent of Brazilian children between 5 and 14 years of age, which was about 5 million children, were still involved in economic activities. Since then, there has been a constant and significant reduction, covering all areas. Over the last 15 years, the number of working children between 5 and 14 has been reduced to about one third of its original value, while in the age range from 5 to 9 years it has been reduced to a quarter. At the present rate, Brazil is proceeding quickly towards the total elimination of this plague.

Various degrees of progress have been made in terms of legislation and institutions. Brazil has taken on board the need to implement texts adopted by the ILO and to apply standards in practice. The minimum age for joining the labour market is now 16, except in the case of apprenticeships, when it can be 14. We have ratified Conventions Nos 182 and 138, and since 1992 we have been part of the International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). Through the application of robust inspection mechanisms and detailed investi-

gations, it has been possible to rescue millions of children.

In 2000, our national programme for the elimination of child labour was created, making money available to families with children or adolescents up to the age of 16 who were in work. The programme is more than just a source of income: the families involved have to fulfil certain positive conditions in the areas of education, health and social security. Improving the socio-economic conditions of families has a major impact on child labour. The social protection network which the Brazilian Government offers has also made a substantial contribution to its reduction. The Family Fund Programme includes conditions concerning attendance at school and has been a useful instrument in keeping children in school and avoiding early entry to the workplace.

Brazil understands that its obligations in the fight against child labour go beyond simple internal measures and also include the sharing of good practice and experiences. We fully agree with the approach set out in Convention No. 182, which recognizes that child labour is a worldwide scourge and that it is only through collaboration and cooperation, not recrimination or isolation, that we will be able to tackle these common challenges.

Brazil has been involved in promoting exchange of experience through South-South cooperation. This partnership pursues common objectives and is a way of uniting similar countries with comparable challenges. In this way, exchanging common practice can be more useful and effective.

In December 2007, when it signed an agreement to implement IPEC, Brazil became not only a recipient, but also a donor of funds for projects in Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa and in Haiti. In March 2009, Foreign Minister Celso Amorim signed an instrument extending technical cooperation to our Latin American neighbours and to other countries on the African continent in order to promote better labour conditions.

We are also intending to sign an agreement soon with the United States and the ILO to help Haiti overcome the challenges it faces in eliminating child labour. Our responsibility for eliminating child labour is particularly pressing when we consider that we are coming close to the deadline for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Eliminating hunger and poverty and promoting education and health will never be achieved while child labour persists. Moreover, in The Hague in May 2010 we participated in the second Global Child Labour Conference, which approved the road map to eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2016. Brazil will have the honour and responsibility of hosting the third Global Conference in 2013, and I would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to that Conference.

Brazil is celebrating the International Day against Child Labour in the certainty that we are on the right path towards eliminating child labour in our country. We have had the courage to face up to this scourge as a systematic problem. Today we are in the process of turning it into a residual problem, and soon it will be a problem of the past.

In concluding, let me remind you that today is the first day of the football World Cup in South Africa, which leads me to repeat our slogan "A red card to child labour".

I would like to compliment the ILO for this Global Report, which appraises us about exactly where we stand today in the fight against child labour.

The document captures the journey so far, takes stock of the progress made and identifies the challenges to achieving the goal of ending all the worst forms of child labour by 2016 in a very comprehensive and forthright manner.

All member States of the ILO are committed to a world free from child labour in terms of the global action plan adopted in 2006. This commitment is evident from the profound effect of various decisions taken by member States in the form of legislative reforms and policy measures in bringing about a continuous decline in overall numbers of working children.

We appreciate the references made in the Report to India's efforts and achievements to end child labour. India is home to the largest child population in the world. We are following robust multi-pronged strategies to tackle the problem of child labour that comprise statutory and legislative measures, rescue and rehabilitation, universal primary education, social protection, poverty elimination and employment-generation schemes.

The objective is to create an environment where families are not compelled to send their children to work. Success can be achieved only through social engineering on a major scale, combined with national economic growth. India has always followed a proactive policy with respect to the problem of child labour and it is continuously developing elaborate measures to combat it.

Our Constitution provides for the protection of children from environmental conditions and economic activities and occasions unsuited to their age. The Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act 1986 was enacted to ban employment of children below the age of 14 years in factories, mines and hazardous environments.

Presently, there are 16 hazardous occupations and 65 processes that are specified under the Act. The employment of children in those is completely prohibited. The employment of children as domestic workers and in shops, restaurants, etc., has been prohibited since 2006. Proper enforcement of the legislation is being ensured at the central and state levels. We adopted a national child labour policy in 1987 under the national child labour project scheme. Children withdrawn from work are provided education and vocational training. There are around 9,000 schools being run under the national child labour policy in 271 districts of the country.

The Government of India has taken an important step by making education a fundamental right for children under the Constitution. Every child in the age group of 6–14 years is to be provided free and compulsory education. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act came into force on 1 April 2010, to facilitate the implementation of this right. A midday meal scheme for school children is being operated. The Government has adopted various innovative measures to benefit and empower informal sector workers in the form of labour welfare funds. The Unorganized Workers Social Security Act 2008 has been introduced and RSVY, a scheme for providing cashless health cover to below-poverty-line families, is running

successfully all over the country and its coverage has now reached 14.5 million smart card users.

The Government created a national social security fund for informal sector workers during 2010 and 2011. Legislation to ensure full security for the poor and vulnerable populations is in the process of being created. To increase livelihood opportunities and assist creation in rural areas, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is being implemented by the Government. This scheme has been expanded to cover the entire country. The Government of India has launched a national policy on skill development to create a workforce empowered with improved skills and knowledge to gain access to decent opportunities of employment.

The Government of India is committed to eliminating the worst forms of child labour. Legislation has been enacted to abolish bonded labour and prevent child trafficking and illegal trading in drugs and narcotics, and to ensure fair administration of justice.

India has been opposing a linkage between trade and core labour standards in various international forums. We are happy that paragraph 353 of the Report of the Director-General, *Accelerating action against child labour*, endorses the fact that the majority of child labour is not found in the export sector, but rather in the production of goods and services meant for local consumption. We urge all member States to work towards open, consensual and collaborative action against child labour for effective results and increased success.

In the context of a child labour-free world by 2016, we feel that the process of elimination of child labour goes beyond ratifications. It is more a question of adequate socio-economic responses and deep political engagement, keeping in view the national conditions. The ILO can play an important role in advocacy and mobilization. We endorse the steps for building global momentum, as indicated in paragraph 377 of the Report. We have to stop child labour because children are our future.

To conclude, I would like to support the positive note in the Report that eliminating child labour is possible and affordable, if the world wills it and fights for it.

Original Arabic: Mr LOUH (Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Algeria)

The debate on this Global Report focuses on the goal that we have set for 2016 of eradicating the scourge of child labour worldwide. This might not be within our reach judging by the data given in the Report: that is, despite the progress that we have seen in some continents, there has been a deterioration elsewhere, and the figures given in the Report are disappointing and do us no credit in an age when human rights are measured against two scales.

Although it is true that governments must devote more efforts to eradicating this scourge, it is no less the case that all the social partners must also play an essential role in combating this phenomenon.

Nevertheless, can we ignore the reality of international relationships that characterize today's world and the influence of the international system on this phenomenon? Are they part of the problem or part of the solution? I am talking about the very nature of international relations.

It goes without saying that an economy that does not provide employment and an education system

that does not give all children the right to schooling can only serve to aggravate the phenomenon of child labour. The African continent certainly suffers most from this scourge, to go by the data in the Report.

I believe that the international community, as embodied by the ILO, is the entity which is best placed to judge the impact of the nature of international relations, particularly relations between North and South, which certainly do not help economic development in these impoverished countries that suffer from this scourge.

Given this reality, the entire international community, within the International Labour Organization, and all the social partners can serve as a persuasive force to influence decisions taken on this issue. Other groups and entities that define the nature of economic and financial relations between countries worldwide even more than international relations – and their nature – directly influence the issue at hand.

The decision by the Director-General of the International Labour Office to participate in the G20 was taken last year against the background of the financial crisis, which, as you know, led to a catastrophic recession that had negative effects on employment and society. While the Director-General's participation in the G20 is a laudable initiative, it is important for it to have a genuine influence on changing the nature of relations between North and South in order to ensure that they do not continue to serve the interests of only one party, making the rich richer and the poor poorer, which will simply worsen the situation of child labour that we are trying to improve and hinder our efforts, particularly in African countries. On this basis, the international community must deploy greater efforts in order to resolve regional, local and international conflicts and to eliminate the debts of African countries. This is no more than justice for those countries that were forced to contribute to building the economies of the majority of today's industrialized States.

Economic development and a social system that allows children to be schooled are the essential pillars that will help us to overcome this scourge. Therefore, the international community must not neglect them when it comes to discussing this phenomenon and its relationship with the nature of the international relations that guide the world of today.

Algeria does not suffer from the worst forms of child labour defined in international conventions. Prevention is based on two different approaches. The first is to guarantee each child access to compulsory schooling until the age of 15. The second is to implement plans to fight unemployment and promote employment by encouraging investment to create jobs and making fiscal concessions to benefit companies that create jobs. The Government provides assistance to those who are unemployed and to families in order to ensure that they do not have to send their children out to work. It also helps such families to purchase school equipment for their children.

Finally, we must state that Algeria guarantees free education from primary level to higher education. Furthermore, social benefits account for 12 per cent of GDP. In accordance with this policy, a labour inspection department was created several years ago. Since 2005, we have had an appointed inspector responsible for monitoring child labour which allows us to combat this scourge through regular

inspection. I would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation for the ILO mission to Algeria, to see on the ground the effects of the measures and reforms that we have taken, which were welcomed by the mission.

Ms SPÂNU (*Government, Romania*)

Romania enjoys strong and fruitful cooperation with the ILO, under IPEC, and with its valuable help it has developed a comprehensive national strategy on eliminating child labour. As a participant in the Global Conference in The Hague and a member of the consultative group, we very much appreciate the efforts of all the colleagues present at the Conference to adopt the road map to 2016. This document gives us all a new impetus towards achieving our target of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016. Romania strongly supports the recommendation that the Governing Body discuss the road map in 2010.

Mr ANIGBO (*Government, Nigeria*)

The efforts of the ILO as depicted in this year's Global Report are highly commendable. The Report reflects and recognizes the clear signs of progress and the obvious lacunae in global response to the follow-up to the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

The subject under discussion, *Accelerating action against child labour*, is of significant interest to Africa in general and to my country in particular. We therefore note with satisfaction the programme of activities aimed at the elimination of the worst forms of child labour since the adoption of the Declaration in 1998. The principles enshrined in the Declaration have no doubt galvanized the rapid and accelerated ratification of the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). This reflects a major global political consensus and the need for the total elimination of the scourge.

We are concerned because the optimism shown towards the total elimination of child labour for the world's 250 million child labourers seems to have been dampened by several factors already highlighted in the Global Report.

The situation in sub-Saharan Africa, the region most blighted by child labour, calls for a more concerted study of the phenomenon and all of its ramifications on the part of all of the stakeholders in efforts to tackle the problem of eradicating abject poverty and creating wealth.

The distinction between child work and child labour must be made. The idea of the worst forms of child labour presupposes and suggests that there may be some better or fairer forms of child labour. For the Nigerian delegation, all forms of child labour are bad and should be eliminated altogether.

Let me at this point highlight some of the achievements made in combating child labour in Nigeria. The most prominent include the establishment of a child labour unit within the Ministry of Labour and Productivity; sensitization and awareness raising on the evils of child labour amongst the citizenry; the establishment of national nomadic education centres for children belonging to nomadic and transhumant communities nationwide; a review to highlight and integrate child labour issues into the labour laws; the ratification of ILO Convention No. 182 and the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138); the mainstreaming of child labour programmes into the Ministry's budget; and the capac-

ity building of the critical mass of labour and factory officers with respect to child labour inspection skills.

However, we note with dismay the dearth of ILO activities in Nigeria in the area of child labour since the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) concluded its activities in 2004. We therefore take this opportunity to call on the ILO to play a more proactive role and to assist Nigeria in a policy review and the updating of the draft national policy.

While calling on the ILO to continue to play its leadership role in providing an enabling environment for its constituents in Nigeria, we reiterate our commitment to the common goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by the year 2016.

In conclusion, we wish to congratulate the ILO and the Government of the Netherlands for having successfully hosted The Hague Global Child Labour Conference in May 2010. Nigeria associates itself with the road map developed to strengthen progress towards the total elimination of the worst forms of child labour by 2016, as well as the promotion, ratification and implementation of Conventions Nos 138 and 182 by member States.

Finally, Nigeria supports the provisions in paragraphs 321 and 322 of the Global Report relating to Africa, and calls on the ILO to endeavour to implement them.

Ms MCDONOUGH (*Government, Australia*)

The Australian Government welcomes the road map to 2016 agreed upon at The Hague Conference in May and is keen to maintain the momentum of the Conference, as advocated by many of the speakers here today.

We sincerely thank the Netherlands, the ILO and all others involved for continuing to actively promote this important goal. The Australian Government is very supportive of the goal of ending child labour by 2016. One of the strongest points to have come out of this morning's session is the ongoing need to ensure that the programmes for the elimination of child labour are fully integrated across a wide range of complementary initiatives, including the achievement of universal education and achieving decent work goals for all.

The Australian Government also supports the point made by the United Kingdom, namely that the involvement of young people in these programmes is imperative. A sense of ownership and partnership with the young people that these programmes are targeting is critical to ensuring success.

The Australian Government supports the road map and requests the ILO to consider building the road map into the wider ILO forward strategy on eliminating child labour.

Mr SAIDOV (*Government, Uzbekistan*)

We support the Global Report, entitled *Accelerating action against child labour*. Uzbekistan also fully supports the main objectives of The Hague Global Child Labour Conference to strengthen the worldwide movement to achieve universal ratification of ILO Convention No. 182 in the near future.

As ILO Executive Director Mr Kari Tapiola said, we now have a road map that helps in finding the way forward and provides us with key input for future discussions in the ILO and elsewhere. It is up to all of us to follow it through. I would like to ad-

dress briefly some issues which have immediate relevance to today's agenda.

The Uzbek Parliament has ratified 13 fundamental ILO Conventions, in particular, Conventions Nos 138 and 182. In 2008, by special decree, the Uzbek Government adopted a national action plan on implementing these Conventions. A system of state institutes that aim to monitor non-admission of worst forms of child labour has been created in Uzbekistan. The elimination of the worst forms of child labour is being achieved through programmes to: create conditions for decent work and new jobs as alternatives to child labour; strengthen social protection and increase incomes for low-income families, which are recognized by international experts as the main causes of child labour; improve children's educational opportunities; and strengthen monitoring of compliance with legislation, in particular with regard to protecting the rights, freedoms and legal interests of children.

In the Report of the ILO Director-General, a great deal of attention is again given to efforts at the national level in the spheres of creating and securing workplaces in the face of the global economic and financial crisis, and to the elimination of forced labour, including child labour. At present, an anti-crisis programme for 2009–12 is being implemented in Uzbekistan. Its main content, objectives and tasks are described in detail in a book by the President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, entitled *The Global Financial-Economic Crisis: Ways and measures to overcome it in the conditions of Uzbekistan*. One of the main objectives, among others, is not to accept a deterioration in standards of living among the population. We agree with the assessment of ILO Director-General that a mixed picture emerges from the Global Report and recent monitoring of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In this context, I would like to stress that Uzbekistan is gradually taking measures to achieve the Millennium Development Goals with a view to reducing poverty, improving living standards, and activating the role of women in the sustainable development of the society.

The Global Report makes reference to the situation in Uzbekistan, where, following media reports about the use of forced child labour in the cotton industry, several major retailers and buyers stated that they would no longer purchase cotton from the country. In this context, we believe that some human rights NGOs are trying to politicize the issue through active involvement in this campaign.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to clarify the issue of the alleged use of child labour in the cotton industry in Uzbekistan. We are deeply convinced that the groundless statements by a number of enterprises and mass media campaigns regarding massive coercion to engage children in agricultural work have only one purpose: to undermine the high rating of Uzbek cotton on the world market. In other words, the politicization of the child labour issue in Uzbekistan is a coordinated and time-tested method of unfair economic competition.

The participation of children under the age of 18 in the activities of farming households, which are by nature family enterprises, must be considered as work in a family establishment assisting a family member, which in turn cannot be regarded as a violation of international labour standards, in particular, the Minimum Age (Agriculture) Convention, 1921 (No. 10), and the Minimum Age (Non-

Industrial Employment) Convention (Revised), 1937 (No. 60), under which no employment age is set for employment in establishments in which only members of the employer's family are employed.

We attach great importance to international cooperation on matters relating to eliminating the worst forms of child labour. Uzbekistan will consistently implement all its commitments to the ILO, in particular to eliminate incidences of child labour, and will continue to support the initiatives of international organizations, especially the recommendations of The Hague Global Child Labour Conference with a view to achieving a world free of the worst forms of child labour.

Mr HAGEN (*Government, United States*)

More than a decade ago the unanimous adoption of ILO Convention No. 182 became a symbol for many of us of a world united in the belief that no child should be exploited or placed in harm's way in the world of work and no child should be denied the chance for education in order to meet his basic needs. Since 1995 the United States Government has provided over US\$680 million in funding for child labour projects around the world, more than US\$410 million of these funds were provided to IPEC. Working with IPEC and some 50 other organizations in more than 80 countries we have helped withdraw or protect over 1.3 million children from exploitative labour. This year we will be providing US\$60 million for new programmes to address the worst forms of child labour, with US\$40 million of these funds going to IPEC.

We also place great importance on addressing this issue at home and ensuring that children in the United States are well protected. We have dramatically increased child labour law enforcement efforts and we will soon issue regulations to expand the list of dangerous non-agricultural jobs that children are not permitted to perform. We are also carefully examining recommendations of our National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health on child farm work, and actively exploring additional regulatory changes to strengthen protection for children in the fields.

The fact that child labour has risen significantly among 15–17-year-olds, as we read in the Global Report, suggests that we need to focus more energy on educating and training youth, and helping their successful transition into good jobs. The Global Report speaks to differences across regions. While child labour numbers have seen a significant drop in Latin America, the numbers in Africa tell a different story. There, 65 million children – one out of every four –working. These differences in experience suggest the potential importance of sharing best practices and South–South cooperation, as Ambassador Azevêdo of Brazil mentioned earlier today. Indeed the Report highlights Brazil's initiative in the wake of its successes in combating child labour at home to provide technical assistance to other countries seeking to do the same.

While we have learned a great deal in the years since the adoption of Convention No. 182, there is still much more we need to learn about the root causes of child labour, about how best to provide children with access to schooling, and about how best to help families secure sustainable livelihoods and overcome the poverty that contributes to child labour.

Original Spanish: Ms HERNÁNDEZ OLIVA (*Government, Cuba*)

Yet again, we have seen that, even with a high number of ratifications of Conventions Nos 138 and 182, there is still a great deal to be done in order to eradicate child labour. What we really need is an awareness and political will to combat this evil, which is undermining the society of today and compromising our future.

Regarding the worst types of child labour analysed in this Report, we should ponder paragraphs 250–253 that refer to agriculture. Generally, child labour in agriculture is associated with underdeveloped countries. Yet paragraphs remind us that, in OECD countries too, a large number of children are working in the countryside. They focus particularly on situations that have been looked at by the Committee of Experts where very young children have actually died because they were not given proper protection when using chemicals on farms in highly developed country. There is no justification for this situation, which stems not from poverty but from insensitivity and from a lack of will to put an end to the situation.

Domestic child labour is another of the worst forms of child labour, and this particularly concerns young girls. My delegation congratulates the ILO to bring about an international standard which will actually protect girls and women who are exploited in that fashion.

Generally speaking, there is a tendency to blame child labour on poverty. This may certainly exacerbate the situation, but it does not justify it. In Cuba, where we have low incomes, we have created the social and economic environment that is necessary to guarantee employment, free education up to the very highest level and a system of primary health care and social programmes for families; as a result, we do not need to resort to child labour for subsistence.

It is forbidden for enterprises to employ young people under the age of 17, while those of 17 and 18 years cannot work in jobs that entail a high physical or psychological risk and receive ongoing on-the-job training.

Labour inspection ensures compliance with provisions on child labour.

Clearly, one of the goals is to eradicate child labour by 2016, and, to that end, we believe that it is of key importance to combine these efforts with the efforts to achieve universal primary education and to accelerate compliance with the Millennium Development Goals regarding poverty, as well as with the commitment of the developed countries to provide foreign aid for developing countries.

The ILO's technical assistance is of great importance in helping those who have not been able to reduce or eliminate child labour.

My delegation is sure that human sensitivity, solidarity between countries and the political will of governments will enable solutions to be found, within the allotted time, that are tailored to the needs of each country, and thus eradicate this scourge of society.

(Ms Nkili takes the Chair.)

Ms ROBINSON (*Government, Canada*)

This year's Global Report, *Accelerating action against child labour*, provides a valuable analysis of progress made since 2006, outlines key challenges

and gaps that remain and identifies how these can be addressed through an agenda to accelerate progress towards meeting the 2016 goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour.

We wish to thank the Office for a comprehensive Report, which includes useful data that is appropriately disaggregated by region, sector, age and gender. We particularly welcome the analysis in the Report on the impact of HIV and AIDS on child labour, of possible links between migration and child labour, and the focus on children with disabilities and special educational needs. Canada shares concerns that, despite significant efforts over the past four years, and success in some areas, there remain some 215 million children engaged in child labour, with 115 million of these exposed to its worst forms.

The Report notes that overall progress towards the effective abolition of child labour is uneven and that child labour remains prevalent in the agriculture sector and among certain worst forms, such as armed conflict, forced labour or, in some cases, domestic labour. We are also troubled by indications that progress in eliminating the worst forms of child labour has slowed in light of the global economic crisis.

Nevertheless, there is still reason for optimism. Last month, the Government of the Netherlands and the ILO hosted the Global Child Labour Conference, which provided renewed impetus for increased international action to end the worst forms of child labour by 2016. Canada would like to express its thanks to the Government of the Netherlands and to the ILO for their commitment to refocusing world attention on elimination of the worst forms of child labour and for spearheading the development of a road map for achieving that goal. The road map provides a framework to assist us in concentrating our efforts, and we look forward to assessing progress at the next Global Conference. We thank the Government of Brazil for offering to host that event.

The Global Report highlights that child labour requires a broad response, implicating a range of actors. This response includes enlarging access to universal basic education, building a basic social protection floor, and promoting productive and decent employment opportunities for parents. Achieving these objectives is crucial to ending child labour. Moreover, these objectives recognize the multidisciplinary approach required to effectively address child labour, as well as the connection between child labour and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular universal education, gender equality, combating HIV and AIDS and ending poverty and hunger.

As a result, we must all take positive steps in support of a coordinated effort. We welcome the continued engagement of the social partners in regional and sectoral-based initiatives and, while Governments are addressing this complex issue from the multidimensional perspective that it warrants, we must continue to enhance inter-ministerial cooperation, including between labour ministries, law enforcement, judicial systems and education and social services.

We should also strengthen our resolve to ensure effective collaboration among governments, employers' and workers' organizations, service providers, international providers, international institu-

tions, civil society organizations and academics, and we must consider the voices of children themselves.

Canada welcomes the ILO's engagement with partners across the United Nations system to address the spectrum of social and economic issues relating to child labour, including through its work in the Understanding Children's Work inter-agency research cooperation project with UNICEF and the World Bank. Cooperation projects such as these provide governments and employers' and workers' organizations with sound information to make informed policy choices. While its advocacy efforts are essential, we urge the ILO not to abandon its crucial practical interventions and advice in the field. The ILO should continue the integration of initiatives to eliminate child labour within Decent Work Country Programmes, which are the mechanism for implementing the Decent Work Agenda at the national level.

The ILO should focus its efforts on identifying and responding to the needs of specific member States. Priority should be given to strengthening the capacity of labour ministries to develop and implement legislation and national child labour strategies and to offering education and vocational training for children, particularly those that are removed from the worst forms of child labour.

We must act now to realize our commitment to end the worst forms of child labour. We agreed in 2006 to achieve this goal by 2016. As we have been reminded numerous times today, we only have six years until 2016. We do have ample information data and frameworks for action; we cannot remain complacent and must increase our efforts and strengthen our partnerships to realize this goal.

Original French: Mr ADDOUM (Government, Morocco)

The deadline for achieving the objective of eradicating the worst forms of child labour by 2016 is approaching, and a great deal remains to be done. Our Organization must therefore encourage the international community to step up its efforts to achieve that objective, and the Report in actual fact does suggest a whole range of important measures to accelerate action to that end.

The road map to a world without child labour, which was adopted at the Global Child Labour Conference in The Hague, has given fresh momentum to efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labour. To deliver on the commitments made within the framework of the Global Action Plan in 2006, as well as in the road map, however, member States and constituents must make the cause of child labour a priority in national budgets and in development programmes.

Morocco has signed up to the road map to eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2016. Allow me to outline the efforts made by the Government to that end.

Moroccan policy-makers have always placed the promotion and protection of the rights of the child at the heart of the Government's national priorities. In March 2006, for example, a national action plan for children for the period 2006–15, entitled "Morocco: Fit for its children", was adopted by the Council of State, taking into consideration the guidelines contained in the 2006 Global Report: *The end of child labour: Within reach*.

The fight against child labour forms a major part of the action plan, and the Minister of Employment and Vocational Training has gone to great lengths to

further its implementation at the legislative and institutional levels, as well as through prevention and awareness-raising campaigns, and direct action.

At the legislative level, after ratifying the ILO's core Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), the Government introduced a range of reforms to bring national laws into line with the principles of those Conventions: raising the minimum working age from 12 to 15 years, for example, a ban on the employment of children in hazardous work from the age of 15 to 18, stronger penalties for offenders and greater powers for labour inspectors. Other legal breakthroughs have included the adoption of the list of hazardous jobs in 2004; the drafting of a bill to establish employment and working conditions of domestic workers that prohibited the employment of children under the age of 15; the drafting of a decree that performed a similar function for purely traditional forms of labour; and the issuing of a decree extended and rendered the 2004 list of hazardous jobs more exhaustive. The latter decree has been submitted to the Government for adoption.

Progress at the institutional level has included the creation of a national steering committee for combating child labour, together with a national office responsible for the expansion and continuity of pilot projects launched by ILO-IPEC; and the designation of focal points in charge of combating child labour at the level of 43 regional employment delegations.

Turning to the direct action, several activities have been carried out within the framework of multilateral cooperation and with the support and assistance of ILO-IPEC and UNICEF, including the training of labour inspectors; local and national awareness-raising of all the stakeholders; studies and research on the fight against child labour; local and national capacity-building; pilot programmes in the field, which have had a positive impact for large numbers of children, and have shown that there are concrete and viable solutions to the scourge. Furthermore, those programmes have produced and distributed guides and brochures on child labour.

Some 16,283 children were removed from child labour and given viable alternatives in the period 2002–08.

In 2009 the focal points in charge of combating child labour made 874 observations and recorded 451 offences. Within the framework of the national action plan for children, and to ensure the spread and continuity of the programmes of action already launched by IPEC Morocco, a government finance bill, introduced in 2009, a new budget line for combating child labour. This has been continued for 2010 and for the years to come. The funding is used to support the NGOs working in the field of combating child labour; for increasing basic knowledge on the conditions of child labour; for stakeholder training; and for increasing national and local capacity building. These are ongoing activities. Partnership agreements were signed with seven NGOs in 2009. New partnerships will be formed with other NGOs throughout 2010.

These are the main efforts Morocco has been making to lead an effective campaign against the worst forms of child labour.

The Government is committed to a world without child labour.

On the last occasion when we met four years ago in 2006, we observed that, worldwide, child labour had fallen by 11 per cent from 246 million to 218 million. By 2004, the worst forms of child labour had fallen by 26 per cent from 171 million to 126 million.

In this year's Report, we have observed that child labour has continued to fall but, as the Global Report has rightly indicated, to a slower rate.

As the Report says, there are still 250 million children trapped in child labour and 115 million in the worst forms of child labour.

Part II of the Global Report 2010 reflects on various achievements in eliminating child labour across the world. It notes that greater efforts are needed to achieve the targets of the Global Action Plan adopted in 2006.

Sri Lanka has demonstrated its commitment to eliminating child labour and protecting the rights of the child by ratifying the main international instruments.

Sri Lanka has ratified the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), and is currently in the process of implementing these Conventions.

As part of the implementation process of ILO Convention No. 182, the Government, along with other States, has adopted a draft policy and plan of action to eliminate the worst forms of child labour.

A list of hazardous forms of child labour has been drawn up, which has already been adopted by the National Labour Advisory Council and legislative process is ongoing.

With a view to bringing national laws in line with international labour standards concerning the worst forms of child labour, including work in dangerous conditions, we need to underline the fact that the problem of child labour can only be effectively addressed within the broader context of the development process.

It is important for prevention measures to ensure that an environment for development is created in which there is no demand for supply of child labourers.

A more sustainable and comprehensive approach would place the issue of child labour within the broader framework of a country's development and poverty reduction measures.

Sri Lanka recognizes the need to eliminate all forms of child labour and the current urgent need to eliminate the worst forms of child labour.

In this context, Sri Lanka endorses the road map for eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016, adopted at the Global Child Labour Conference in The Hague in May 2010.

Sri Lanka wishes to commend the contributions made by the Government of the Netherlands over the years, and especially its hosting of the Global Child Labour Conference, 2010.

In line with the road map adopted at the Global Child Labour Conference, the Government of Sri Lanka, with the participation of all the stakeholders and the assistance of IPEC, is now in the process of developing its own road map which aims to eliminate the worst forms of child labour by 2016.

This exercise has also provided us with a great opportunity to assess the remaining obstacles and identify the challenges which emerged following

the end of the civil war that ravaged the country for nearly 30 years.

The country faces the challenges of rehabilitating a large number of child fighters and reintegrating them into society and the economy, as well as providing education and proper care for a large number of children living in the war-affected areas.

The road map for Sri Lanka adopts an integrated, area-based approach. This strategy will involve implementing measures in all nine provinces of the country, but with due priority given to the five provinces which are classed as “fast track” provinces under the Mahinda Chinthana, the Government’s development framework. The fast track concept is designed to reduce regional disparities by prioritising the provinces with the highest prevalence of poverty.

In addition, the reconstruction and reintegration under the Mahinda Chinthana, 2010, of the northern and eastern provinces affected by conflict, will be given priority.

These programmes will seek to link up with initiatives under the national decent work programme and other relevant schemes.

As the impact of the strategies designed to tackle specific types of child labour will be broad, sustainable, multifaceted and integrated strategies will be required.

Broad-based partnerships will be used to implement coordinated and complementary interventions. A mechanism for coordinating direct interventions will be based mainly at district and community level. The interventions will identify, remove and protect children aged between 5 and 17 from the worst forms of child labour in the provinces by providing a range of education and training opportunities.

Family members will receive direct support to enhance their incomes and training to improve production processes as a result of programmes.

Furthermore, children and young people will become indirect beneficiaries of the programme. All the children and young people will participate in the Youth Outreach Programmes on occupational safety and health, in order to reach other youngsters and create awareness of occupational safety issues. Families will be empowered, innovative alternative production processes will help to protect vulnerable children and strategies for specific target groups and geographical areas will be explored. The aim will be to produce an integrated environment in which quality education for all children, decent work for adults and respect for labour standards reduce the supply of and demand for child labourers and increased school enrolment and retention will be the priority areas.

I wish to take this opportunity to pay a tribute to ILO-IPEC for the assistance provided to Sri Lanka for almost a decade. The programme not only helped reduce child labour incidents in the country, but the dialogue and the atmosphere of partnership, cooperation and awareness among all stakeholders facilitated, in many ways, the drafting and implementation of programmes to help children.

Ms KITUYI (*Government, Kenya*)

The Government of Kenya welcomes the third Global Report, *Accelerating action against child labour*. This Report is built on the foundation of the first and second Global Reports and emphasizes the effective abolition of child labour under the follow-

up to the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. It also comes against the backdrop of the financial, economic and job crisis that casts several challenges in various regions towards the attainment of commitments as set out in the 2006 Global Action Plan on the elimination of child labour and the Millennium Development Goals.

We express deep concern at the increase of child labour incidences in sub-Saharan Africa, as a result of the financial crisis. We are further concerned that progress in its fight has slowed down and that the report points to an increase in child labour in relative and absolute terms. There is therefore need for spatial and specific attention to be paid to sub-Saharan Africa. We call on the ILO and multilateral partners to strengthen their support for the IPEC regional action plan for Africa, to build momentum for the fight against child labour once again.

The statistical estimates are indicative of serious drawbacks that call for repositioning and the need to have effective social dialogue and tripartite national ownership of coherent policies that deliver decent work and education for all.

We note efforts made by member States towards ratification and application of Conventions Nos 138 and 182, which Kenya has ratified. We have since taken steps to apply the Convention through new labour laws. We have developed structures to drive the process. We have re-engineered the inspectorate and other actors to respond effectively and efficiently. We are now moving towards creating child labour-free zones as a beacon for future action. We have a decent work programme and we have aligned our development programme with the poverty reduction programme and relevant strategies.

In our recent national study, we recognized that, mainly as a result of free primary education, the incidence of child labour had gone down from 1.9 million in 1999 to 1 million in 2007. It was further noted that the affected ages had been raised to the 15–18 bracket, hence our current focus on youth initiatives.

The elimination of child labour is a key priority and through tripartite action we have a time-bound plan to eliminate its worst forms by 2016. Kenya is a beneficiary of IPEC support, through which we are mainstreaming child labour policies and prioritizing laws and practices to fight the scourge of child labour. Through collaboration with the ILO we are formulating productivity and employment policies to promote productive employment opportunities for parents and to pull working Kenyan children out of poverty.

However, like other developing countries, we require technical support to upscale action and keep the momentum going against child labour, and especially its worst forms.

We support the view in the Report for the establishment of an eminent advisory group to promote an Africa-wide movement against child labour and for a high-level political conference in Africa as a means of putting child labour high up on the policy agenda. Kenya is available to discuss the options and possibilities for implementing this noble initiative that would generate sustained and consistent momentum for the elimination of child labour in Africa.

Allow me now, on behalf of the Government of Kenya, to thank the Government of the Netherlands and the ILO for their initiative in organizing a global conference that adopted a road map to guide

member States towards elimination of the worst forms of child labour. The road map is a credible and practical instrument that will steer us towards effective promotion of social, economic and human development. We therefore reiterate our support for the road map as it offers a clear and visionary approach to tackling child labour, and which we believe will steer us to our goal.

We also want to thank the Government of Brazil for agreeing to organize the next Global Child Labour Conference. We thank the Governments of Morocco and Cambodia for their offer to host regional follow-up meetings to assess our performance on the elimination of child labour.

I also wish to thank the Governments of the Netherlands and Germany for their pledge to support the ILO-IPEC programme. We thank the United States, Denmark and Norway for their continued and consistent support for free primary education and poverty eradication-related programmes in many parts of the developing world.

Finally, allow me to acknowledge the ILO's efforts in promoting the fight against child labour beyond its constituencies, particularly in the effort to mobilize financial and technical resources. We wish to urge all donors to fulfil their undertakings and promises to offer official development aid to Africa and the least developed countries.

Ms CRENNAN (*Government, New Zealand*)

Protecting the rights of children, both domestically and internationally, is a human rights priority for New Zealand. We agree that we are at a critical point in the fight against child labour and there is much to be done if we are to eradicate its worst forms by 2016.

New Zealand was pleased to participate in the recent Hague Global Child Labour Conference that launched the Global Report, *Accelerating action against child labour*. New Zealand supports the Report's findings and the Hague Conference's recommendations that real progress on the elimination of child labour will only be made by taking a comprehensive and integrated approach, including a focus on education and economic development, underlined by a political commitment to make real progress.

We support the further integration of child labour concerns into the Decent Work Agenda and the further use of appropriate time-bound measures aimed at improving the ability of countries to achieve elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

New Zealand is playing its part. We have ratified Convention No. 182 and have adopted other key international instruments designed to support the rights of children and prevent their exploitation through trafficking, slavery or child prostitution.

Domestically, New Zealand has a work programme designed to improve our knowledge of existing protections for young people in work and to promote the rights of children generally. The aims of the programme are to develop online information tools, identify gaps in our knowledge base and build a comprehensive picture of young people's participation in employment.

Through development assistance programmes in the Asia and Pacific and African regions, New Zealand continues to support efforts to improve the position of children. Assistance has included programmes on promoting access to health care, educa-

tion and vocational skills training and funding to prevent child trafficking.

New Zealand is heartened by the commitment expressed in this room today to take positive action for the 215 million children involved in child labour. The real life challenge for all of us is what we will be able to tell them in both 2013 and in 2016 of our progress in making child labour a problem of the past so as to ensure it is not a part of their future.

Mr ADYANTHAYA (*Worker, India*)

The world's children in general and the 215 million children slogging as child labourers in particular, are looking to the ILO, governments, and social partners to keep the promises that we made way back in 1999. Promises were made to keep and not to break, when we adopted ILO Convention No. 182, as well as promises we made in 1973, when we adopted the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138).

Of course we have made advances. Strong awareness now exist that eliminating child labour requires good universal education, quality education, with a midday meal scheme, free textbooks and free uniforms, as well as food security for families and a minimum sustenance support. Of course, child labour exists, but not at the level that it existed in villages. The villages are the places from where child labourers go to the towns or cities. So, village-level intervention is, and must be, very effective if we are to eliminate child labour. I complement the ILO. IPEC has taken note of that and I compliment it for creating programmes at that level. Child labour exists, mainly in agriculture, formal as well as informal, and also in domestic work, which we have been discussing in the other room over the past few days.

The ILO Constitution reminds us that poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere. Escaping poverty requires better skills for adults, both women and men, not only in enterprises, but also in the villages where they live. There should not be migrant labour. Then and only then child labour can be prevented.

So, these are the most important points, but, at the same time, at the national and state levels, as well as at other levels, legislation and enforcing machinery are required. Ratifying a Convention does not mean that child labour does not exist. That feeling should not be there. There should not only be ratification; following ratification there should be very strong legislative measures taken by the respective governments. And, after taking the legislative measures, punitive action, that is, treating it as a serious offence, has to be taken. Then and only then can it be eliminated. A certain amount of coercive measures are also necessary, particularly in the developing countries. In my own country, as said by our Labour Minister, backed by an Ordinance we have banned bonded labour and made it a criminal offence. When you make it a criminal offence with the relevant enforcement machinery, rapid enforcement machinery if possible, then half the problem will be solved.

But the major problem is poverty elimination. Poverty breeds child labour. Child labour breeds poverty. It is like the chicken and the egg. So, poverty elimination, good employment opportunities and quality education – these are most essential if you are to successfully eliminate child labour.

At the same time, social dialogue, collective bargaining, the employment of youth and their affected families, decent work conditions, social stimulus and, as I said earlier, effective legislation and enforcing machinery – these are all important measures we should take.

And it is not only a labour market issue, so social dialogue is a must. In developing countries, we have seen, as I said earlier, it is not enough to say that child labour is a sin. That it is not acceptable. For that, we have to know how to convince the ordinary people. For that, I have my own ideas. Engage the Bollywood actors, in my own country, as brand ambassadors. Engage good cricketers, like Sachin Tendulkar – he is an icon. You engage them as brand icons for child labour. This is what we are doing today. Red card against child labour. It is the same thing in developing countries. We need to ask each country, who is the hero here? Who is the good actor here? Ask them. The ILO should initiate, IPEC should initiate, along with support from governments, and use brand ambassadors. These are the innovative measures we should adopt.

Ms MCHIELA (*Government, Malawi*)

The Report shows that, while achievements continue to be registered globally, there is a declining trend in the rate of achievements and there is a sign of a loss of momentum. Most importantly, the Report warns of the painful possibility of missing the 2016 target we have set ourselves to eliminate the worst form of child labour, unless we consciously accelerate action against child labour at the global and national level.

Malawi is committed to eliminate child labour, especially in its worst forms. At the policy level, Malawi was one of the first countries to ratify the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). Malawi has ratified all the eight core Conventions. Furthermore, the provision of the two child labour Conventions have been incorporated in the Employment Act of 2000. The Government, in collaboration with the social partners and other stakeholders, has developed a child labour policy, a national action plan and a list of hazardous work and occupations through a highly consultative process. This document will be adopted very soon. Child labour is one of the priorities of the Malawi Decent Work Country Programme. At the programme level, Malawi has implemented child labour projects with support from the ILO, mainly in agriculture and on a trial basis in domestic work.

Over 50 per cent of all child labourers in Malawi are in agriculture, and agriculture is the main source of the country's GDP and foreign exchange from growing tobacco. Evidence shows that child labour was reduced from 37 per cent in 2002 to 29 per cent in 2006 in the space of four years. This shows that there are prospects for further decreases in child labour in Malawi. We are planning to undertake a follow-up survey to assess the current situation.

Malawi would like to agree with the proposed framework for upscaling and accelerating action against child labour, as reflected in the Report and the road map adopted at The Hague conference, if we are to achieve the goals set by 2016.

Allow me to comment on the increased international collaboration with UNICEF.

As soon as the ILO agreed to collaborate with UNICEF at the international level, our national structures also adopted the collaborative approach.

Malawi volunteered to be a One UN country, and through the One UN fund is implementing a joint programme on youth employment.

Finally, the upscaling and acceleration of action means that the Office should also double its effort, particularly in southern Africa where child labour is on the increase. A holistic approach is needed, looking at the context within which child labour is taking place. Hence the need to emphasize the interrelationship between all the strategic objectives of the Decent Work Agenda.

Malawi is currently reviewing its growth strategy. This is an opportunity for the social partners and the ILO to provide the necessary inputs for a policy environment conducive to the elimination of child labour.

Mr AHMED (*Worker, Pakistan*)

I take this opportunity to convey my appreciation of the holding of this event on the eve of the commemoration of International Child Labour Day with a special team to go for the goal of ending child labour, in conjunction with the opening day of the World Cup.

It is of immense importance, since children are our future. In saving them from the scourge of child labour, we can help their material and spiritual development through the provision of free, meaningful education and skills development.

We sincerely appreciate the work of the ILO and IPEC, as well as the Global Report and the contributions of donor countries on this important issue.

In this phase of history, we are confronted with many challenges in seeking an end to this scourge. The international financial crisis has a negative impact on third world countries. The policies of the IMF and the World Bank, which entail cutting back on the public service and on investment in free education also have a negative impact and need to be changed. We urge the developed world and the international organizations to help developing countries break the chain of unemployment and poverty, which is one of the major causes of child labour.

I fully support what was said by Mr Trotman and by the Workers' delegate from India. Pakistan has been carrying out an ILO project on the elimination of child labour through tripartite partnerships and is a good model of cooperation with the ILO.

Pakistan is a front-line state in the war against terrorism. It is facing serious repercussions at the economic and social level fields and sacrificing a great deal in its efforts to provide productive and decent employment. It has also been looking after 3 million refugees. We believe that, despite difficulties in the social, economic and political fields, the Government should demonstrate a strong political will to eliminate child labour and to provide a free, meaningful education for each child.

Pakistan has ratified both the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), and Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138). A good example of its commitment is the workers' welfare fund, which is used to provide free education for children up to university level.

Pakistan's national trade unions have established a free information technology facility from their own funds for both male and female children in the major cities, which demonstrates our political will to fight child labour and to improve the employability skills of our children.

Trade unions play an important role in collective bargaining and in the enforcement of the country's progressive labour legislation, particularly in the area of child labour.

Trade unions also play an important role in raising awareness of child labour, and Pakistan's Parliament recently passed a constitutional amendment providing free basic education for all, both male and female.

We fully support ILO-IPEC activities and urge that more grassroots activities be developed. We feel that the Decent Work Country Programmes should have a larger component for the successful elimination of child labour.

Sixty per cent of children in Asia work in the agricultural sector. Asia is the largest continent in terms of population, and it also has the highest proportion of child labour. It therefore deserves special attention from the international community.

We entirely agree that the ILO, in its future activities, should devote special attention to the situation of domestic workers, female workers and migrant workers, with an eye to the elimination of child labour, and that it should disseminate good practices among member States in enforcing their labour legislation as it concerns the elimination of child labour.

Pakistan enjoys good cooperation with the ILO and we hope that this cooperation will continue to be strengthened. The ILO can be assured of our full support and solidarity and our firm pledge to eliminate child labour by 2016, as advocated by The Hague Conference.

May the Almighty help us to fight this scourge and to provide a better future for our children.

Original Arabic: Mr EL-MESLAWY (Government, Egypt)

It is my pleasure to thank the Director-General for the Global Report and also the ILO for its efforts over these 90 odd years, and especially the last 20 years, against this scourge, through the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). The most recent of these was the Global Child Labour Conference, hosted by the Government of the Netherlands last May, following the two conferences, on child labour held in Amsterdam in 1997 and in Oslo in 2000.

The Hague Conference is the continuation of the Organization's campaign to raise awareness of child labour and encourage States to ratify Convention Nos 138 and 182, with the aim of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016.

We support the content of the Global Report and the call to integrate the issue of child labour into the Decent Work Country Programmes. We also agree on the proposal for an increased focus on Africa and South Asia, given the growing numbers of working children in those regions. We welcome the assessments indicating a decline in child labour figures in some regions over the period 2004–08, particularly for the worst forms of child labour. However, it is still a matter of concern that the figures are increasing in Africa, and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. We therefore consider that the policies aimed at combating child labour, particularly in Africa, should include increasing development assistance programmes in order to create more jobs and reduce poverty, which in turn will contribute to eliminating child labour on the continent.

I would like to confirm that the Egyptian Government takes a keen interest in respect for and the application of international labour standards. In this

context, under the full patronage of the wife of the President of the Republic, the Government launched a national strategy on the elimination of child labour, based on two complementary elements: the first is to integrate working children into basic education, and the second consists in withdrawing children from hazardous forms of work and providing them with safe jobs and vocational training.

The Ministry of Manpower and Migration has adopted several policies and measures, as follows. First, it set up a tripartite steering committee to translate the national strategy on the elimination of child labour into national work plans, with the participation of most of the government administrations and civil society organizations concerned. The committee carries out social mobilization and media awareness campaigns on the rights of the child and explains the role of civil society and the private sector in the framework of genuine partnership with the relevant government bodies.

Second, consultative committees on the elimination of child labour have been set up in all the provinces, in coordination between the Ministry and its directorates responsible for the welfare of working children. These committees have already achieved several of their objectives in terms of getting working children back into basic education and providing some children with vocational skills in training centres and single-class schools, as well as offering social and health services and financial assistance to many children.

Third, this year we agreed on launching a survey on child labour, in cooperation with the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics and the ILO, and have already declared five provinces free of the worst forms of child labour.

Fourth, we have set up a central database on child labour and established an electronic link between the labour inspectorate on child labour in the Ministry and some of the provinces, while taking account of the social dimension in classification and analysis of the data.

Fifth, staff have been trained on dealing with working children and capacity building programmes prepared for staff and institutions, from a child rights perspective, through the labour inspection body in the Ministry.

Sixth, the Ministry, through the labour inspection authority, is providing guidance and support to working children and their families and employers, in order to ensure children's safety and protection and improvement of their conditions.

Seventh, policies and legislation have been developed on protection of working children and ensuring conformity with international standards in regard to the best interest of the child.

Eighth, poverty alleviation programmes have been developed with the aim of preventing new children from entering the labour market and getting working children back into the education system, as well as modernizing hazardous industries to eliminate or mitigate risks to children and provide alternatives.

The ILO has addressed child labour as a priority, and today more than ever before it must design policies and strategies to enable us to cope with the effects of globalization and the global financial crisis through a viable means of pursuing our policies and objectives which we hope to achieve.

As regards the road map for achieving the elimination of the worst forms of child labour by 2016, adopted at The Hague Conference, in view of its

importance and the considerable momentum it can give to policies to eliminate child labour, I call on all the parties concerned – governments, employers and workers – to make use of the road map to strengthen their own efforts to end child labour and the effects of the dark side of globalization so that we can achieve our goals, God willing, as this is a cause we believe in and take pride in.

Ms HANGA (*Government, Zimbabwe*)

The Global Report, *Accelerating action against child labour*, provides a dynamic global picture of our efforts to eliminate child labour in general and its worst forms in particular. Although it points to the slowing pace of eradication efforts since 2006, I wish to lend my country's support for the International Labour Office's initiatives to tackle child labour, and to point out that we, as a nation, are forging ahead with the aim of realizing the goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour.

The Global Report clearly articulates the progress made by member States since 2006, as well as the key challenges faced in efforts to eradicate child labour. In the case of Africa, it points to a worrying state of affairs where an estimated 65 million children in sub-Saharan Africa are engaged in child labour. The reasons are not difficult to detect. Child labour is basically a symptom of the underlying problem of poverty. It is estimated that one in six people in sub-Saharan Africa is living in chronic poverty, which has worsened as the overall share of the population in poverty has grown. The fact is that while child labour is found in all regions of the world, it is overwhelmingly a developing country phenomenon.

In the case of Zimbabwe, we are of the view that the goal of tackling the worst forms of child labour is within our reach. As a country, the two Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that we have prioritized are poverty eradication and universal primary education. My Government therefore agrees entirely with the Report when it emphasizes the fact that combating child labour “means breaking the cycle of denied education, uncertain employment for youth, and all too certain household poverty”.

I am happy to inform the Conference that my Government and its social partners, in collaboration with the ILO and other United Nations agencies, conducted a rapid assessment survey on the worst forms of child labour in all ten provinces of the country in 2008. The findings point to the fact that the worst forms of child labour do exist in Zimbabwe, and that the major push factor is poverty.

Since the finalization of the survey report, the Government and the social partners have gone on to draft a national time-bound programme of activities. This multisectoral approach will include the stepping up of ongoing national programmes on poverty eradication and employment creation, as well as increased resource allocation for the fight against HIV/AIDS. It should also be noted that employment creation and increased grass-roots participation will contribute more significantly to a reduction in the prevalence of the worst forms of child labour.

On the social front, all initiatives must take cognizance of the aggravating impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on the situation of children, particularly those already orphaned. Indeed, HIV/AIDS has the effect of perpetuating poverty among households

whenever their economically active members succumb to the pandemic.

My Government will furthermore step up efforts to fight child labour in a holistic manner, with several existing policies and programmes coordinated to achieve that goal. As part of those efforts, it will continue to make resources available to enable the vulnerable to attend school through its basic education assistance module and the continued implementation of the national action plan for orphans and other vulnerable children.

In conclusion, I call on the International Labour Office to strengthen its technical cooperation with developing countries in particular. We need it if we are to realize the goal of eliminating child labour. As Africa grapples with the challenges of continuing poverty and marginalization, it is imperative to boost the programmes taking action to eliminate child labour on the continent.

In the spirit of the World Day against Child Labour 2010, the Government of Zimbabwe joins the chorus: “go for the goal – end child labour”.

Original Chinese: Mr HAO (Government, China)

Child labour is a violation of human rights. We have been consistently combating all forms of child labour and are working hard to eliminate child labour at its source.

The Chinese Government has put in place various legal instruments, including particular laws on child protection and regulations prohibiting the use of child labour. The Chinese Government is implementing these regulations and regulating employment in order to protect children's rights.

We have been working hard to improve the labour inspection system and to improve our capacity for monitoring compliance with legislation.

The Chinese Government has developed an action plan to combat trafficking in women and children. A system of inter-ministry meetings has been established to exchange views and experiences. We have made full use of the media and lectures to raise awareness of legislation and encourage employers to protect workers and cease using child labour. We welcome the Hague Global Child Labour Conference and support its road map towards achieving the goal of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016. We look forward to working with the ILO towards this goal.

Ms SEEMULE (*Government, Botswana*)

Botswana has actively participated in programmes aimed at eliminating child labour and we are indeed hopeful that we will become a child-labour-free zone before 2016. Botswana has, since independence, provided free education and healthcare for all its citizens. The challenge that we face is the vast size of the country and establishing education facilities in adequate reach of all who may need it. Through IPEC, Botswana has managed to implement programmes aimed at reaching those children who are most at risk. We therefore fully support the continuation of this ILO programme, and thank those who continue to support it.

Botswana participated in The Hague Global Child Labour Conference from 10 to 11 May 2010, as a member of the consultative group. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of the Netherlands for their excellent hospitality and their unwavering commitment to the issue of child labour. We are indeed enthused to eliminate the

scourge of child labour and we believe the Conference has re-energized us and that we do not have “child labour fatigue” any more, as described in the Global Report. My delegation welcomes the road map to 2016 and we look forward to the review reports that will serve our progress towards abolishing the worst forms of child labour.

In conclusion, Botswana, with the assistance of the ILO and the international community, will continue to exert all its efforts to raise awareness of child labour and eventually eliminate it before 2016. We believe that we can no longer justify our lack of progress and we have an obligation to these children to free them from this undue burden.

Mr ZELHOFER (*Worker, United States*)

I just want to highlight three issues, first: trade unions, second: trade unions, and third: trade unions.

I endorse the comments, of course, of our Workers’ spokesperson in his initial intervention. I also took very careful note of the intervention of the United States Government and would urge and encourage it to give more and further resources to IPEC and the important programme that it is undertaking, and, of course to redirect the work that it supports, better than it has in recent years.

It is very clear that IPEC has a better understanding now of the absolute importance of tripartite engagement at the national level, and the importance of freedom of association and collective bargaining, especially in the sectors that are so affected by child labour, including agriculture, mining, construction and others. I am looking again at paragraphs 138–143 of *Accelerating action against child labour*; they are very clear on the importance of trade unions being engaged at the local level, the state level, and the national level in the elimination of child labour, and that is through the respect for freedom of association and collective bargaining.

Secondly, also in its move towards an integrated decent work approach, which is very important for IPEC, I want to underscore the vital role that education plays. This is not just from the top down, but from the bottom up. There is also the importance of a well-compensated teaching body that has the ability to organize themselves and collectively bargain. We need to empower both workers’ organizations and communities in the economy to formalize the economy through decent work. Working together with the global union federations on the sectoral aspects, we would encourage their connection with the sectoral department in the ILO, along with the social dialogue office, and especially ACTRAV.

Mr BARROW (*Government, Gambia*)

The Government of the Gambia supports the road map developed to eliminate child labour at the Conference in The Hague in May 2010.

The Gambia ratified all the ILO core Conventions in 2000. The Gambia has also ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Labour Act 2007 has prohibited the worst forms of child labour in the Gambia. The Government has instituted free primary education for children in grades 1–6. In addition, the Government has also established free education for all girls from grades 7–12.

Despite these efforts by the Government, child labour is still an issue in the Gambia, since the scholarship provided by the Government covers only the

tutoring. It excludes the cost of books, equipment, transportation and lunch during school sessions.

At the rural level, children are involved in child labour; they go to farms to help their parents. This is a result of high levels of poverty in these areas. Parents need the assistance of their children to be able to have sufficient income to pay for their children’s education and other basic needs of life, such as food, clothing, shelter and health care.

In the early 1980s, the World Food Programme helped the school system with food supply, particularly in rural areas. This programme helped the Government of the Gambia to tremendously increase school enrolment rates, particularly in the rural Gambia. Children actually walk in the hot burning sun to go to school in another village. However, I regret to inform you that this assistance from the World Food Programme is declining drastically in almost all our schools.

The Ministry of Employment is planning to come up with a project on the elimination of child labour. I appeal to the ILO and its collaborators to assist the Gambia in eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016.

Ms EASTMAN (*Representative, Education International*)

As the aptly named Global Report accelerating action against child labour says, “It is [indeed] our responsibility to ensure this is the last generation to be exploited as child labourers.”

It was heartening to also hear certain expressions, such as “political will” being repeated, statements acknowledging the responsibilities of government, but also the importance of tripartism and the efforts made using that mechanism, as well as the role of the unions. I particularly wanted to comment on that.

Building on what we know, it is imperative to take a comprehensive, multi-strategy action approach, stressing the importance of education and the intrinsic links with several Millennium Development Goals, namely education for all, gender equality, combating HIV/AIDS, poverty and hunger, and of course the road map itself, which is a significant achievement. For these achievements we thank ILO–IPEC and the Government of the Netherlands.

I would also like to underline that child labour is not a simple issue. It is the business of all countries in the world. It is a global, national, local and family problem. It is complex and in places it is deeply ingrained, driven perhaps by social norms and certainly by economic imperatives, and it is exacerbated by a lack of social security and decent work for adults.

We at EI also fear that the current economic crisis and recession has slowed down momentum towards the eradication of child labour.

It is simply not acceptable for 215 million children around the world, 129 million in agriculture alone, to continue to be victims of child labour. Half of these children work in conditions that violate their basic rights and dignity, such as slavery, forced labour, trafficking, debt bondage, serfdom, prostitution, pornography or recruitment for armed conflict, with girls especially affected. It is a life blighted in its formative years by mind-numbing, spirit deadening and body-destroying labour. Childhood should be a time for learning, for going to school, for playing and building family connections. The link between child labour and a lack of educa-

tion is intrinsic indeed, as is the link with poverty. There are just a couple of things I want to say on the issue of child labour and one is that at least the overall goal needs to be the elimination of all forms of child labour. It is certainly necessary and important to focus on the worst forms but this should take place within the context of eradicating all child labour because, if we are to achieve education for all, then it is imperative that we have children who are able to go to school and stay there for long enough to learn and to gain a basic education. Are we saying that, if we focus only on the worst forms of child labour, then some other forms of child labour are permissible? I do not think so.

In the 2006 Report, which was very optimistic regarding the progress we were making at the time, I did note that the successful decrease in the worst forms of child labour at that time was accompanied by a commensurate increase in less worst forms. Thus, there is a tendency for the problem to move around and, in some cases, the line is blurred by the age and nature of the child and the nature of the work, making it difficult to establish what are the worst forms of child labour and what may not be. Domestic labour is a case in point and here, once again, I come back to girls.

I think that child labour actually has major repercussions on the education of children. Many working children either do not attend school, drop out at an early age, or they may often be absent or repeat grades. Low educational achievements will affect their prospects for the future and, indeed, affect their whole lives. We know what we need to do. Education is a human right, it is a public good. It is, in fact, the breath of life for children and it must be non-negotiable. A school must be at the centre of every community. Literacy is a gift for the livelihood of people of all ages, for democratic citizenship and for life itself.

Therefore, replacing labour with education is our imperative. Achieving education for all by 2015 is a daunting challenge at this point in time. Some child labour is hidden, because of conflict, a lack of rural access to education and because of the issue of AIDS orphans. Once again, it is double jeopardy for girls who have to work in the field or the factory and then again in the home.

I would also say that much is expected of schools, schooling and teachers these days. An investment is essential, but it is not always adequate. We need to invest in schools themselves, of course, namely the curriculum, the resources and the classrooms, but also the teachers. We know that here is a shortage of teachers. UNESCO has told us that very clearly. However, a more recent, burgeoning crisis is the problem of teachers leaving the profession. The problem is becoming astronomical and we cannot afford to lose qualified teachers from classrooms simply because the conditions in which they work are not attractive enough for them to stay in the profession. Recent reports from South Africa, in particular, are indeed very disturbing, as is the trend in recent years to hire un- or under-qualified teachers. We cannot have education that is not quality education, and expect it to do the job that we want it to do. We therefore need qualified teachers and we need teachers who are supported throughout their careers and in the work they do in classrooms, with children, as well as the work they do in communities, namely the working with parents of those children. Unfortunately, being in school does not neces-

sarily guarantee learning and children taken out of the worst forms of labour are not necessarily put into schools. We need to understand these complex issues in more detail. We need quality education, we need free education that is compulsory up to the minimum age specified in ILO Convention No. 138, and we need formal education. Yes, there is a role for informal education, especially as a transition stage but this should be with the long-term goal of providing formal education for all children. Training is important, but by itself it is not adequate, as it does not constitute a basic, liberal education for life.

School environments need to enable children to learn most productively. They must be friendly, relevant, interactive and participatory. Quality education will keep kids coming to school and it will keep their parents sending them to school, if we also ensure safety and security in those schools, as well as some incentives, such as meals. We know that that will work. We also know that educated women benefit not just themselves and their families, they benefit the whole community.

Their children are less likely to be involved in child labour, more likely to be in school, be better nourished and less likely to contract HIV, have an early marriage or an early pregnancy. Thus the investment in the education of girls obviously is a major factor in breaking the cycle of poverty instead of perpetuating it, and we know that parents will send their children to school under those conditions.

We also know that tired, hungry, stressed or scared children do not learn, and therefore the conditions under which we are providing the schooling and the kind of schooling we are providing does matter, and it matters a lot. We still have much to learn still, and the daily lives of children and teacher bear further investigation. In this regard, I do commend the recent excellent publication, *Understanding Children's Work*.

I want to make a few remarks on the Global Report, and I would also like to say that we very much appreciate our collaboration over the years with ILO-IPEC. Today, together with IPEC, we launched "Go for the goal – end child labour" – a new information kit for teachers to use in classrooms with students, and we hope that this will make a small contribution to awareness raising and action at local as well as global levels.

Regarding the Report itself, while there is progress, there are some concerns and the results are mixed, but I do want to comment on what could be described as the robust conclusions at the end, the strategic considerations for reaching the 2016 target, and also the key steps for achieving the 2016 goals. I think these aspects are very good, and they do provide us with a direction in which to move.

I would like to comment particularly on paragraph 374, and also on 370–371, although not necessarily to the exclusion of others. Under the key steps, strengthening collaboration with social partners to advance the elimination of child labour is important, as are efforts to involve civil society, represented by the Global March against Child Labour, and work to develop further links between work on child labour and education. I think all those measures are very important, and have been very succinctly stated in this year's Report on child labour.

Thus, colleagues, we will continue with our efforts to advocate and take action to eliminate child labour, working with our Members, with the Global Task Force, with the Global March, ILO-IPEC,

ITUC and the Global Union Federations, as well as civil society. We shall commit to contributing to multi-strategy, comprehensive action at global to local and local to global levels. We congratulate the governments that have developed national action plans, and we will assist any government to the best of our ability, not only to ratify, but also to implement, ILO Conventions Nos 87, 98 and 111, as well as ILO Conventions Nos 138 and 182.

Ms LONGLEY (*Representative, International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations*)

The IUF is actively supporting the ongoing work to develop a Convention and supporting Recommendation on domestic workers, but on this occasion I want to speak about the situation in agriculture.

In 2010, as in 2006, the Report of the Director-General, *Accelerating action against child labour*, states clearly that agriculture remains the sector with the most child labour. Since 2006 there has been a slight decrease in the percentage but the absolute numbers remain the same. The ILO estimates that 129 million girls and boys aged 5–17, equivalent to 60 per cent of all child labourers, are still working in agriculture, many of them under hazardous conditions.

For the IUF, the extent of child labour in agriculture and rural areas cannot be separated from rural poverty and the lack of decent work in agricultural and rural areas. Agriculture remains the domain of poverty, violence, child labour, death and injury on the job. Agricultural workers are still specifically excluded from labour legislation in some of the richest countries of the world, countries which are major producers and exporters of food. Agriculture is one of the most dangerous sectors to work in. It ranks alongside mining and construction and, according to the ILO's own statistics, is the sector with the most fatal accidents. Children working in agriculture, as we have heard from some of the Government representatives, are regularly exposed to pesticides, have to work with dangerous machinery and tools, have to handle heavy loads and are exposed to extremes of temperature and weather.

The Report before us highlights that most working children in agriculture work on family farms and smallholdings, but it is a grave mistake to assume that this is benign child work. These children are often involved in hazardous work and deprived of the opportunity to go to school. We have also clear evidence that children continue to work on tea, sugar, bananas and cotton plantations and in the production of other products that we all take for granted.

The IUF participated, along with other trade unions, at the Hague Conference and one of the things that concerned us was that there was that there was a reluctance among some governments and employers to have any sectoral reference in the road map. We do not understand this position. Children work in industries, in specific sectors, and there need to have specific plans to deal with the sectors where most child labour takes place.

The IUF welcomes the recognition in the Hague road map preamble that agriculture has the highest incidence of child labour, but regrets that it is not more comprehensively tackled in the principles and actions. We, however, welcome the acknowledgement in paragraphs 251 and 253 of the Director-

General's Report that meeting the 2016 targets and the ultimate goal of the effective abolition of child labour require a breakthrough in agriculture and the recognition that it is now important that agriculture becomes a priority area in eliminating child labour. To this end, it is important that IPEC works with agricultural and rural workers' trade unions at all levels, grass roots through to international.

The need to focus on agriculture was, however, already recognized on World Day against Child Labour, 2007, when the International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture was established. The IUF is a member of that partnership, along with other United Nations organizations and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers. The partnership issued a statement to the Hague Conference which pointed out that the elimination of child labour in agriculture would be more rapidly achieved if there was policy coherence at national and international levels around a number of things, including, firstly, the establishment and full application of laws on child labour in agriculture, fisheries and forestry, and an effective enforcement of child labour legislation, including through labour inspection. Secondly, rural strategies aimed at reducing poverty, improving rural livelihoods and mainstreaming child labour concerns into agricultural policy-making. Too often, ministries of agriculture are not included. Thirdly, there should be strategies to improve access to quality and relevant education for all girls and boys in agricultural and fishing communities. Fourthly, there should be better health and safety in agriculture as one of the ways of eliminating hazardous work of children. Fifthly, youth employment opportunities in agriculture and rural areas, including agricultural skills training, have to be part of policy development.

We therefore welcome Minister Donner's statement this morning that what is needed is an integrated approach combining decent work, social protection and the elimination of child labour. To this end, we also commend the plan of action on promoting rural employment for poverty reduction adopted by this Conference in 2008 and repeat the call made by the Workers' group then for the ILO to ensure that adequate resources are allocated so that this comprehensive plan can be implemented.

Finally, we welcome the acknowledgement in paragraph 141 of the Report that organized workplaces are inevitably free of child labour and that barriers to freedom of association in those areas of the global economy where child labour is most prevalent – in unprotected, informal work, in domestic service and in agriculture – are also significant barriers to the elimination of child labour.

In the Right of Association (Agriculture) Convention, 1921 (No. 11), the ILO recognized the need for special attention to be given to ensuring what was then called the right of association and combination for agricultural workers. That need remains as pressing today as it was in 1921.

Freedom of association, guaranteeing that agricultural workers have the right, and can exercise the right to belong to a trade union and to be represented by a trade union, is desperately needed so that agricultural and rural workers can increase their bargaining power with their employers and have an effective political voice with governments to advocate for policies that will ensure decent rural employment for adults, quality education for rural

children and the elimination of child labour in agriculture.

Original French: The PRESIDENT (Mr NKILI)

The comments that you have made, the examples that you have given and the issues that you have raised are all evidence of our collective commitment to putting an end to child labour. The different statements have also highlighted the fundamental role of education in the process of eliminating child labour and the importance of combating poverty.

As was underscored on a number of occasions, this real scourge of child labour is not an inevitability and it affects all of us. The global movement

against child labour, and the fast-approaching deadline of 2016, chosen by the ILO as the date by which the worst forms of child labour should be abolished, are giving new impetus to the efforts made and the new measures established.

Within this context, I sincerely hope that our discussions today will revive global support for combating child labour and for intensifying this battle.

As indicated in the Global Report, and as it has been said today during our discussions, child labour has, of course, had a very long history but it must have no future.

(The Conference adjourned at 6.55 p.m.)

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